

Turkey may close border

ANKARA (AP) — Apparently fearing a massive refugee problem, Turkey Friday warned that it may have to close its border post with Iraq unless refugees coming through are quickly taken in by their own countries. Premier Yildirim Akbulut said Turkey had information that refugees were massing on the Iraqi side of the border. The Habur crossing gate was built for truck traffic and lacked facilities for large numbers of people, he said. Turkey realises the difficulties these people face and wants to do its humanitarian duty, the premier said in a written statement. "But I must emphasise that it is not possible for us to provide food, housing and transportation for tens of thousands of people." Special measures on passage may have to be taken or "closure of the border may come on the agenda," he warned. Officials fear a Pakistani influx this time. Since Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, 7,532 people have entered from Habur, border officials said. Of these 3,000 were Turkish workers returning home and 2,903 were Pakistanis. The next largest groups were Romanians and Yugoslavs, 538 and 511 respectively.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير حزبية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Iraqi pilots try escape

PARIS (AP) — Police arrested four Iraqi air force pilots who tried to flee a French military base where they had been held since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, police said Friday. One of the pilots, apprehended at Charles de Gaulle-Rossy airport, held a valid ticket for a Royal Jordanian Airlines flight to Amman, police said. Air and border police officials were unable to say how the pilot had come by the ticket or whether he had accomplices. Police sources said he had fled the inter-army formation centre at La Rochelle, 468 kilometres west of Paris, under the pretext of visiting his girlfriend. Three other Iraqi pilots from the same base were arrested Thursday on a train from La Rochelle bound for Paris. Authorities said it was not clear how they had managed to leave the base. Eight were taking language courses at the La Rochelle base when Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2. The others were receiving fighter-pilot instruction. France has trained dozens of Iraqi fliers for more than a decade. The training was cancelled and all were grouped at the inter-army formation centre until air borders reopened.

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Jordan to close embassy in Kuwait

AMMAN (R) — Jordan will close its embassy in Kuwait, the Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported Friday, the deadline set by Baghdad for all foreign missions to shut. "Jordan has decided to close its embassy in Kuwait and (told) the ambassador to inform the Iraqi military authorities there about this decision," Petra said. It gave no indication that Amman was planning to move its embassy to Baghdad as demanded by Iraq.

Aqaba women to help evacuees

AQABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees, Friday chaired a meeting for a group of Aqaba women to discuss ways the women's voluntary sector can contribute to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait now in Aqaba. Princess Basma expressed her appreciation for the women of Aqaba for their enthusiasm and readiness to offer assistance. Participants in the meeting decided to form a voluntary committee to help Arab nationals who are waiting their turn to leave Aqaba for home.

Algerian minister visits Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Algerian Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad Ghozali left Amman for Baghdad Friday morning following a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Discussions during Ghozali's visit centred on the Gulf crisis. Also leaving for Baghdad Friday was Yuri Sytenko, an envoy of the Soviet leadership, who had spent three days in Jordan and was received by His Majesty King Hussein.

Irish hostage Keenan freed

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Friday confirmed that Irish hostage Brian Keenan has been released in Beirut and was on his way to Damascus. "Keenan is now safe in Syrian hands and will be handed over to Ireland's foreign minister in Damascus, probably tomorrow," a senior Syrian official told Reuters. Keenan, a 39-year-old English teacher from Belfast in Northern Ireland was freed in west Beirut by the Islamic Dawn militia after 52 months in captivity.

Saudis in Kuwait 'moved to Baghdad'

KHAFJI, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi Arabians trapped in Kuwait are being rounded up by Iraqi troops and moved to secret locations in Iraq, a Saudi official said Friday. "Iraq is treating Saudi Arabians just like Westerners... looking for them, rounding them up and sending them to Baghdad," the official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. He had no information how many Saudis were trapped in Kuwait by the Iraqi takeover Aug. 2. Hundreds of Kuwaitis, other Gulf Arabs and Westerners have managed to escape through the desert across Kuwait's southern border with Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi planes said loading in Yemen

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi planes are in Yemen to fly foodstuffs to Baghdad, evading a naval blockade by U.S. and other Western warships in the Gulf, reliable sources in the Gulf said Friday. There are several planes in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, but we still don't know their numbers and how many have left for Baghdad," one source told Reuters by telephone. "It is basically to evade the blockade," he said.

Jordan, Austria stress need for diplomacy

King, back from talks with Saleh and Bashir, discusses Gulf with Waldheim

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Austria Friday called for a diplomatic/political solution to the Gulf crisis, with the Kingdom stressing that the escalating tension in the region could lead to a "destructive explosion."

In a meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, His Majesty King Hussein reviewed the developments in the Gulf crisis and both leaders emphasised the need to defuse the problem and resolve it through diplomatic means, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King, fresh after visits to Yemen and Sudan in a bid to contain the Gulf problem in an Arab context, explained the situation to Waldheim, who arrived Friday evening, and said that "the escalating tension could result in a dangerous explosion in an area considered one of the most sensitive in the world," Petra said.

The King told the Austrian leader, who is scheduled to leave for Baghdad for a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, that Jordan was seeking to deescalate the situation and that "it is the responsibility of all who care about world peace and stability."

The King returned home earlier Friday after talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, and Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir in Khartoum.

In the Sanaa talks, the first phase of a renewed Jordanian bid to resolve the Gulf crisis through Arab diplomacy, King Hussein and President Saleh agreed that the dangerous situation in the region "stemmed from the presence of foreign forces in Arab lands," Petra reported. The two

leaders said the Arab countries "should move fast and intensify their efforts to put an end to the crisis and remove the danger from the Middle East and save the world from a catastrophe," according to Petra.

The King, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, later flew to Khartoum for talks with Bashir on the "latest developments in the Gulf and ways to end the problem," Petra said.

In a statement given to Petra upon his return home, the King said he was in total agreement with the Yemeni and Sudanese leaders on efforts to deal with the situation. "I have told the Yemeni and Sudanese leaders that the Arab countries should insist on

(Continued on page 4)

Stand-off in Kuwait City over embassies closure

IRAQI SOLDIERS swarmed around Western embassies in Kuwait Friday and threatened to remove diplomats forcibly by Saturday, and Baghdad warned the U.S. that American interests throughout the world would be in danger should U.S.-led forces attack Iraq.

Iraqi troops were deployed Friday around eight embassies in Kuwait City after at least some of their diplomats refused to leave in compliance with Baghdad's order that all missions close Friday.

Nearly 20 countries have said they would defy the order issued to the 60 foreign missions in Kuwait.

Iraq to allow diplomats' families to leave after King's appeal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq has agreed to allow the families of foreign diplomats to leave in response to a humanitarian appeal from His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported from Baghdad late Friday.

"The Iraqi decision to allow the families of diplomats of embassies which refused to cooperate in closing their missions in Kuwait City came in response to a humanitarian appeal by His Majesty King Hussein," the agency said.

The agency quoted an official Iraqi spokesman as emphasizing that Iraq was determined to implement the decision to close the diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

"It has been decided to allow families of diplomats of countries which did not cooperate in closing their embassies in Kuwait City to leave Iraq and prevent men from leaving until their countries complied with the order to close."

"Iraq is determined to implement the decision as a right of sovereignty," he added.

Gorbachev warns Iraq to abide by U.N. calls

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Friday that if he did not abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions, the world body would be obliged to approve "additional measures."

Gorbachev, in a message to the Iraqi leader reported by the TASS news agency, said Moscow was standing by its denunciation of take-over of Kuwait. He urged Saddam to abide by the resolutions demanding the withdrawal of his forces and to release all foreign nationals.

"Sidestepping these demands will inevitably prompt the Security Council to adopt appropriate additional measures," the message said.

The United States, Britain and France have been trying to gain Soviet support for a Security Council resolution approving the use of minimal force to enforce an economic embargo against Iraq.

Gorbachev's message appeared to be a warning to Saddam that the Soviet Union would go along with the Western powers unless Iraq quickly took steps to withdraw from Kuwait and free its foreign hostages.

Gorbachev previously has condemned the Aug. 2 Iraqi take-over as "treachery." The U.N. Security Council voted Aug. 6 to impose international economic sanctions against Iraq and called for restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty.

Soviet media did not carry the text of Gorbachev's message to Saddam. But TASS said Gorbachev reiterated the Soviet position that Iraq's takeover of Kuwait was illegal and "described the situation in the Persian Gulf as extraordinary and extremely dangerous."

"The Security Council acts now depends fully on Iraq," TASS said. "Gorbachev in his message urged the president of Iraq to immediately take appropriate steps."

Earlier Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gromitskiy said all Soviet embassy personnel had been evacuated from Kuwait to comply with an Iraqi demand to cease diplomatic activity.

Jordan stands to lose \$4b, U.N. told

By Ghadeer Taher Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, grappling with an \$8.4 billion foreign debt, has informed the United Nations that it stands to lose over \$4 billion as a result of compliance with Security Council Resolution 661, which calls for sanctions on Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

The government, in a memorandum submitted to the Security Council President last week, said that Jordan would face "special economic problems within the meaning of Article 50 of the (United Nations) Charter." Article 50 allows countries affected by imposing sanctions to discuss the problem with the Security Council and includes provisions for compensations.

The memorandum, stressing Jordan's economic interdependence with Iraq and the short-term as well as long-term repercussions, also detailed a

"medium-term" programme

"to remedy the situation and contain... the repercussions."

Jordan needs grants, interest free loans, aid financing as well as debt relief and reduction, according to the programme in the draft memorandum.

In terms of exports, Jordan will lose approximately \$200 million annually and about \$925 million from loss of transit business, according to the draft memorandum, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times.

Iraq has been Jordan's partner for a long period of time and many of the country's export-oriented industries are geared towards the Iraqi market.

According to the memorandum Jordan will also lose \$180 million annually as a result of diverting its oil purchases from Iraq, which offers Jordan concessionary terms and convenient financing. Jordan bought

(Continued on page 2)

Announcement by the Central Bank of Jordan

The Central Bank of Jordan announces that a new J.D. (20) banknote will be put into circulation as of Saturday the 25th of August 1990, based on the articles (27), (28) and (29) of the Law of the Central Bank of Jordan and article (4) of the Bylaw of the Issuance of Jordanian Currency.

Dimensions and composition of the new notes are completely the same as the note currently in circulation, except for the background colours which are dominated by light blue.

The new notes will circulate together with the current notes. All can be used to make payments.

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Friday receives Austrian President Kurt Waldheim upon his arrival in Amman Friday (Petra photo).

Jordan reopens border

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan formally reopened its border with Iraq Friday after streamlining the process of allowing foreigners to leave via the Kingdom amid prompt responses from governments and international organisations to appeals for help.

However, the 40-hour "formal closure" of the border point at Al Ruweished to clear up a massive backlog of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq already in the Kingdom had very little practical impact on the human flow, according to officials and concerned diplomatic missions.

The European Community (EC) said in Brussels that Belgium was sending two military transport planes to Jordan to help airlift the evacuees, and the Netherlands and France contributed a total of \$848,000 to add to an EC assistance of \$1.3 million to the evacuation process. An EC spokesman also indicated that there would be additional contributions

from various other members of the community.

The first Belgian C-130 military transport plane was due to arrive here Saturday and the second on Sunday. The aircraft will be used mostly to airlift Egyptians, who form the bulk of the evacuees.

Norway said it was earmarking \$332,000 in emergency aid to the evacuation. Half of the amount will help the Red Cross bring food, medicine and water to the evacuees while the remainder will be used by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) to buy Norwegian-made emergency rations.

UNDRO was sending two officials to Jordan to assess its needs and a plane load of 40 tonnes of blankets, food and water next week. In addition, the International Commission on Migration (ICM) was sending three experts to Jordan and Egypt. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said it was also ready to help the evacuation process.

The Belgian airlift is expected to start from Amman rather than anywhere near the border post because of poor landing and take-off conditions.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement Friday saying the border was reopened for crossing at 4 p.m. Friday, and that 20,000 people will be allowed in everyday. The border was closed Wednesday night after Jordan said it was facing enormous difficulties in handling the flow of foreigners leaving Kuwait and Iraq through its territory.

The ministry has formed several committees entrusted with the various aspects of dealing with the flow of evacuees, including border formalities, transportation, camping, health, etc.

Inquiries with diplomatic missions in Amman indicated that there was very little practical impact of the border closure since none of them reported any decline in the number of their nationals arriving in the capital Thursday and Friday; most of them arriving by buses and other vehicles sent to the border by the embassies and others travelling on their own.

"We did not really feel any change in the flow," said an official in charge of the evacuation process at an Asian embassy in Amman. "On Wednesday we had more than 1,300 arrivals, on Thursday it was 900, and today (Friday) the figure

(Continued on page 4)

Qasem delivers message to Beijing

BEIJING (Agencies) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem flew into Beijing Friday for talks on the Gulf crisis and delivered a letter from His Majesty King Hussein to Chinese leaders.

"We think that the next few days or weeks are an important period for the whole world," Qasem told Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Diplomats in Beijing said it was possible Jordan was acting as an intermediary between Iraq and China.

Qasem spoke of danger in the Gulf region. He delivered a letter which he said was from King Hussein to Li and President Yang Shangkun. Qasem did not divulge the letter's contents.

Qasem said his talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen were "constructive and important."

China, as one of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, could play a crucial role in efforts by the United States to pass a resolution that would permit the use of military action to enforce sanctions against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait.

The five permanent members — China, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — are considering a draft text of the resolution after a week of negotiations in New York.

China has repeatedly stated its opposition to military involvement by "big powers" in the Gulf.

But Kuwait's exiled Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters after talks with Li in Beijing on Wednesday that China would not block the resolution.

Jordan, whose economy relies heavily on Iraq, did not support an Arab League resolution condemning the takeover of Kuwait

(Continued on page 5)

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan. From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres: The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

- GUVS - Amman Governorate Tel. 639555
- GUVS - Irbid Governorate (02)242518
- GUVS - Zarqa Governorate (09)981712
- GUVS - Balqa Governorate (05)555285
- GUVS - Karak Governorate (03)351169
- GUVS - Ma'an Governorate (03)324777
- Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society-Aqaba (03) 316130
- GUVS - Tafilah Governorate (03)342385
- GUVS - Mafraq Governorate (04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

Iran to enforce sanctions on Iraq

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday his country would enforce a United Nations-imposed embargo on trade with Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying that "we respect, and will abide by the Security Council decision."

Last week Iraqi President Saddam Hussein settled a decade-long border dispute with Iran, pulled out troops from Iranian territory, and initiated an exchange of prisoners captured in the 1980-88 war between the two countries.

Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, Rafsanjani said that foreign forces in the Gulf had turned the region into a "powder-keg," and warned that in the long-run this will have a "very bad effect."

"We warn that when Iraq has come to its senses and pulled out its forces from Kuwait, the alien forces must leave the region."

The Iranians have condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, but they have focused their anger on the U.S.-led multi-national force deployed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Rafsanjani also said he had no objection to foreign forces pushing Iraq out of Kuwait, as long as they left afterwards.

"One possibility is that they would put a stop to aggression, which we do not mind. Any sort of help from anyone is acceptable," he said.

It was the first clear signal that Tehran would stay out of war between the United States and Iraq over Kuwait.

Soon after the crisis erupted, Iraq accepted Iran's terms for final settlement of their 1980-88 war so it could concentrate forces

in the south.

"We are trying to have this problem end without war breaking out because (the region) is like a powder keg... if it is to be resolved with bombs and bullets it would mean that cutting of many oil routes, an economic crisis, a fuel crisis," Rafsanjani said.

Analysts had feared that in return for Iraq's surprise olive branch, Iran may choose not to enforce the embargo along its 1,080-kilometre border with Iraq.

The embargo was slapped by the United Nations Security Council to strangle the Iraqi economy and force it to relinquish Kuwait.

Rafsanjani said Friday that "the invasion of Kuwait cannot be accepted under any circumstances."

"We support the rights (of Kuwait), and Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait," Rafsanjani said.

Since the invasion, Iranian leaders have stressed that although they condemn the Iraqi aggression, they have no sympathy for Kuwait's ousted ruling family.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the deposed Kuwaiti ruler has admitted giving Baghdad, \$14 billion during the Iran-Iraq war.

In a meeting Thursday with Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, foreign minister of the ousted government, Rafsanjani said that Iraq supported the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and a "return to stability," but he did not back calls for a return of the expelled government.

Referring to growing grassroots support in the Arab World for Iraq, Rafsanjani added that "every if all Arabs agree to Iraq remaining in Kuwait, we will not accept it, because we consider this against the security and interests of the region."

Palestinians show little fear of war

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians ground down by 32 months of revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip show little of the fear of a Middle East war seen among Israelis.

Frustrated by daily clashes with Israeli soldiers, mounting economic losses and moribund peace efforts, the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories appear to welcome anything that would change the status quo.

"There is a subtle anxiety but there is no panic among people," said Rana Nashashibi, director of the Palestinian Counselling Centre in Arab Jerusalem.

"It (the threat of war) does not scare people any more because most feel they have been living in such a situation for some time," she said.

Said a man in his early twen-

ties: "Things couldn't get any worse than they are now. We are dying slowly every day anyway."

More than 700 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, thousands wounded and tens of thousands jailed since the revolt against Israeli rule started in December 1987.

Palestinians, who blame U.S. support of Israel for the continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, have demonstrated in support of Iraq.

Many welcomed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threats to retaliate with chemical weapons if Israel attacked any Arab state.

Among Palestinians shopping in Arab Jerusalem this week, there were few complaints about the lack of gas masks — in demand in Jewish areas — or the absence of bomb shelters in the occupied territories.

Grocers said people were buying food in large quantities, but had done so throughout the revolt.

Less than two kilometres away in the Jewish area of Jerusalem, Israelis cleared bomb shelters and checked on protection against chemical weapons. Some stocked up on food supplies.

On Thursday Hebrew daily newspapers ran front-page stories headlined "Panic" and reported that one Israeli importer sold 1,000 gas masks over the phone in one hour this week.

A senior civil defence official advised Israelis to stock up with two weeks' food and seal their homes against gas attack in case of war.

Store owners say sales of baking soda have soared 500 per cent in the past week because emergency first aid manuals re-

commend it as a defence against some types of poison gas.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would strike quickly to win if drawn into war.

As the prime minister estimated the Gulf crisis was nearing a climax, the Israeli army tried to ally to public fears the conflict was about to envelop the Jewish state.

"In the circumstances our major task is to prevent war or to preempt it, and if heaven forbid these two fail, and there is no alternative, we have to win quickly and decisively," Shamir said.

Asked by reporters later if he was suggesting a preemptive Israeli strike against Iraq, Shamir said: "No, not at all. Our aim is to prevent any military involvement of our country."

Israel questions U.S. arms sales to S. Arabia

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Friday questioned U.S. arms supplies to strengthen Saudi Arabia and said it would seek extra military aid for itself.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens repeated longstanding fears that sales of sophisticated arms to Arab countries could threaten Israel's "technological superiority."

"I think the Americans know that we feel we need additional weapons, beyond the aid we have received for years," Arens said.

He made his comments in an interview published in the newspaper Haaretz a day after Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he would seek more U.S. aid during talks in Washington next month.

U.S. congressmen, seeking to balance foreign interests against the need to trim the budget deficit, have questioned the \$3 billion — \$1.2 billion in economic grants and \$1.8 billion in military grants — Washington gives Israel each year.

Despite financial constraints, President George Bush has offered Washington's Arab allies, the latest tanks, aircraft and other weapons to face what he sees as a threat from Iraq, which took over Kuwait and allegedly moved troops to its border with Saudi Arabia three weeks ago.

"In the present circumstances, perhaps there is greater understanding than in the past why the Americans feel great pressure to carry out deals like these," Arens said.

"But we will still have to discuss these subjects with the Americans," he said, according

to a transcript of the interview provided by the defence ministry.

Arens would not say if Israel would oppose extra arms supplies to Saudi Arabia, which is officially at war with the Jewish state but has joined the United States in opposing the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

He said he understood Saudi Arabia's present need for additional tanks to face Iraq's armour. "But it's impossible to know what will be in a year or two," he added.

Israel's supporters in the U.S. Congress have traditionally opposed arms sales to its potential enemies. But on Aug. 8, Bush waived a law limiting sales of F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia to 60 at a time.

Saudi Arabia has 58 F-15 jets and 12 on order. Defence officials said the Pentagon might sell another 24 and Defence Minister Dick Cheney has said Saudi purchases could include sophisticated long-range F-15Es.

The Saudis have signed a deal worth more than \$3 billion for 315 M-1A2 tanks, the most advanced U.S. model. The Pentagon now wants to sell more.

In addition to fearing that Saudi Arabia may turn the weapons against Israel in the future, Israeli officials point to Iraq's capture of Western arms in Kuwait as evidence of the danger that U.S. weapons could end up in hands for which they were not intended.

Washington has also said it plans to sell 46 F-16 aircraft and related arms to Egypt, concluding a long-term programme. But Israel does not oppose arms sales to Egypt.

British teenager freed from Iraq arrives in Jordan

LONDON (Agencies) — A British teenager trapped alone in Kuwait after the Iraqi takeover has been freed and is now safe in Jordan, British Airways said Friday.

Fifteen-year-old Alex Barnett arrived in the Jordanian capital Friday morning on a regularly scheduled Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad, the airline said.

Iraqi radio said Thursday night that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had given orders that Barnett be sent home after learning that he was in the Gulf without his family.

He was a passenger on a British Airways flight heading from London to Madras, India and Malaysia which was stranded in Kuwait city during the Aug. 2 invasion.

"Alex is safe and well and is in the care of our staff in Amman," said a British Airways spokeswoman.

"We are making arrangements to fly him home on the first available flight to be reunited with his family," said the spokeswoman.

The Foreign Office said: "We have had confirmation from British Airways that he is in Amman and we will be seeking to get him home as soon as possible."

The Foreign Office said the boy's parents, who live in Hamilton, Scotland, have been informed of his release.

The Iraqi radio report said Saddam had given orders that the boy should be returned to Britain after he learned that he is alone with the British families (in Kuwait) and that his family is not with him."

Alex's release came a day after

Saddam appeared on Iraqi television with about two dozen British men, women and children who are among thousands of westerners being held at strategic sites in Kuwait and Iraq.

He told the group they were not hostages, but were being detained to prevent war.

Wearing a business suit instead of his usual military fatigues, Saddam told the group that when they had "played their role in preventing war, then you will all be heroes of peace."

He said he did not intend to use Westerners as a human shield against military attacks. He said the Arabic word for "prevention" had been misinterpreted by foreign journalists as the word for "shield."

He did say, however, that "we are in a position to destroy any attacker."

The extraordinary Saddam videotape, shown by Cable News Network, was derided in Washington.

"Saddam Hussein is obviously more interested in some sort of shameful theatrics than in dealing with the two issues that really matter — and that's withdrawal from Kuwait and freedom for innocent civilians," Assistant Secretary of State Department Richard Boucher told reporters.

Britain denounced the encounter as a repulsive charade.

Saddam spoke in Arabic during his television appearance, broadcast to the West by the Cable News Network. In remarks translated by a government interpreter he told the Britons they were not hostages — "we will try to treat you in the same way as we treat Iraqis."

Knesset may try to revoke Miari's immunity

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's (Knesset) legislature will try to strip an Israeli Arab lawmaker of his parliamentary immunity and charge him for meetings with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the lawmaker said Thursday.

If successful, it would be the first time a lawmaker lost his immunity from prosecution for political reasons, the lawmaker said.

"This is an attempt to frighten all the Arab citizens of Israel and to intervene in their political life," said Mohammad Miari, of the left-wing Progressive List for Peace.

Israel has passed a law prohibiting its citizens to meet with representatives of "terrorist groups," which usually refers to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Parliament members in Israel

are by law immune from prosecution for any criminal activities.

Miari said parliament speaker Dov Shilansky had informed him that a parliamentary committee would decide at its next meeting in October whether to revoke his immunity.

"The speaker said the state attorney's office requested the removal of my immunity so that I could be charged," Miari said.

"But I think this is an attempt by the Israeli secret service to use the state attorney's office to frighten the Arab citizens of the state of Israel," Miari said in a telephone interview.

There are 780,000 Arab citizens of Israel living among 3.7 million Jews.

The Arab citizens vote in Israeli elections, unlike residents of the occupied territories.

Miari admitted he had met with

Jordan stands to lose \$4 b

(Continued from page 1) 82.5 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq in 1989.

The memorandum also listed the following expected losses:

— Loss of capital inflows in the form of repayment of Iraqi debts to Jordan (\$310 million).

— An increase in the financial obligations of Jordan by approximately \$2.6 billion arising from debt guaranteeing extended by Jordan on behalf of the Iraqi government to a third party which Iraq has so far been repaying regularly. (The Memo did not give details and no further explanation was available immediately.)

— A loss of \$50 million annually in Iraqi grants pledged to Jordan.

The government's memorandum also cited losses as result of its economic and financial relations with Kuwait. Jordan would lose grants amounting to \$135 million pledged by Kuwait as well as proceeds from exports amounting to nearly \$80 million annually.

The Kingdom will also lose \$320 million in remittances that used to come from the 100,000 Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait.

I. Grants to cover:

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
Previous pledges	185	185	185	185	185
Debt on Iraq	145	144	30		
- with interest	25	14	2		
Price of oil	180	189	180	180	180
Total	534	523	397	365	365

II. Interest free loan with a maturity of 30 years (including 10 years grace period) to cover losses in export proceeds and transit business as indicated hereunder:

	Annually
Exports to Iraq	200 million
Exports to Kuwait	80 million
Transit business	250 million
Remittances	320 million
Total	950 million

III. Oil financing in the amount of \$400 million per year for 15 years, five years grace period, and three per cent interest.

IV. If Jordan's needs of oil supplies are guaranteed at a maximum price of \$65 per ton of fuel oil or \$16 per barrel of oil, grants can be reduced by \$180 million and loans needed for financing of oil to \$310 million.

V. Development loans to revitalise the economy and to contain the repercussions emanating from the disruptions of trade. Jordan will need an additional \$500 million annually in development loans (maturity over 18 years, with five years grace) at most favourable interest rates offered by donors.

VI. The ability of the economy of Jordan to cope with foreign debt. Jordan would have been able to cope with the debt burden — although with difficulty — had the embargo not been imposed. However, with the additional financial burden resulting from the embargo, the problem of foreign debt in Jordan will become unmanageable. Debt relief other than debt rescheduling will become necessary and some arrangements for debt reduction should be made available to Jordan.

Egyptian editors dismiss Iraqi reply

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian editors have described as disappointing and "delirious," a reply from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call two days ago for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Saddam's message to Mubarak, read by an announcer on Iraqi television and radio, spoke of the greed of oil-rich Arab leaders and their collusion with Western powers as justification for Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Saddam said "Arab oil wealth is for all the Arabs," and also urged Mubarak to drop his alliance with the West and join a "holy war" against U.S.-led forces in and around the Gulf region.

Following a news report about Saddam's speech on Cairo television late Thursday, Kamal Abdel Raouf, deputy editor-in-chief of the state-run daily Al Akbar called Saddam's words "a naive attempt to set strife among the countries that stood against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

"His speech is an attempt to address the simple-minded, this won't work... no Arab can respond to such empty words which are a kind of delirium."

In his address to Saddam Tuesday, Mubarak said he was appealing "in the name of Islam, the religion of peace... in the name of Arab nationalism." In what sounded like a final warning, Mubarak called on Saddam to pull out his forces from Kuwait and avoid "a destructive war that will devour everything."

Egypt was one of the 12 countries that voted in favour of an

Arab League resolution condemning Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, and endorsing the use of U.S. and other Western forces to help Saudi Arabia "defend" itself.

The resolution also pledged to send Arab troops to Saudi Arabia, and Egypt has so far sent 4,000 and said more may go if needed.

In his address to Saddam, Mubarak said "I am fully confident that you will respond to this appeal in deference to the supreme Arab interest."

However, Saddam's "open letter to Mubarak" clearly indicated the Iraqi leader believed Kuwait should belong to Iraq.

"Oil appeared (in the Gulf region) and with it came the conspiracy of Europe... to divide some of (the Gulf states) including Iraq where it had torn out Kuwait from its southern part."

Also commenting on Saddam's reply to Mubarak, Samir Ragab, editor-in-chief of the evening paper Al Massa said "We would have liked him (Saddam) to talk reason, instead he is headed in the opposite direction."

"We hope Saddam can return to reason and discuss objectively instead of talking about bloodshed."

In his statement, Saddam urged Mubarak to drop his alliance with the West. He told the Egyptian leader U.S. aid to Cairo, which amounts to about \$2.1 billion a year, was "only a small fraction of the Egyptian people's share of Arab wealth."

"Join us before the great showdown occurs so you can please God and your people."

Stand-off in Kuwait City over embassy closures

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi troops were seen taking up posts Friday around the U.S., Japanese, British, Norwegian, Sweden, West German, Romanian and Hungarian embassies in Kuwait City.

"They have not made any moves against the embassy or intruded in any fashion, but they are nevertheless present. It would appear that people are not being allowed to enter or leave the embassy," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said at a briefing in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The United States, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Austria and the 12 European Community (EC) nations were among those announcing they would defy the order and remain in Kuwait.

"We don't know how many soldiers there are, their intentions, but there must be a lot, enough to completely surround the entire building," said Bjoern

Blotkus, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Iraq had charged that keeping the embassies open in Kuwait would amount to an "act of aggression" by recognising the country that Iraq took over Aug. 2. It said diplomats no longer would have diplomatic immunity, raising fears they could be detained as hostages.

The Iraqi News Agency said the embassies had until 9 p.m. local time (1800 GMT) Friday to close, but diplomats in Washington said the deadline was extended to midnight (2100 GMT).

However, Spain's ambassador to Jordan, Ramon Armengod, told reporters Friday that Iraqi authorities now were saying embassies had until 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) Saturday to close. Armengod also said Iraq warned that anybody in the embassies after that time would be removed by force and treated as any other local citizen.

Prime Minister Margaret

Thatcher Friday blasted the threat, saying: "If anything happens, it will be the responsibility of the Iraqis..."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Iraqi guards were posted outside the British embassy Friday and "appear to have instructions not to allow people in or out."

Iraqi soldiers posted outside the Japanese embassy told the two Japanese diplomats remaining inside that their diplomatic immunity had been revoked, but made no attempt to remove them, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Baghdad meanwhile warned the United States that American interests throughout the world would be in danger should U.S.-led forces attack Iraq in the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem as warning Washington "that any foolishness in the Arab Gulf or aggression against our forces will be met

with force."

"The U.S. defence secretary, (Dick Cheney) and others should remember that this region is not easy and that its oil is inflammable and its sparks extend to all parts of the world," Jassem was quoted as saying.

Later, in an interview with British Television, Jassem also said British detainees would die if there were a Western military invasion of Iraq, Independence Television News, in a report from Baghdad, quoted Jassem as saying: "If Iraqis die so will the

About a dozen Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Nathaniel Howell, meanwhile were holed up at the pan-shaded American compound in Kuwait.

But about 100 U.S. diplomats and dependents, who left the embassy Thursday, were detained in the Iraqi capital, said officials in Washington.

Egypt said it would not close its embassy or reduce its staff of 20.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News Summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Joint Account
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Shark's Paradise"

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
06:00 Sunrise/Dhuha
12:30 Dhuhr
16:15 Asr
19:14 Maghrib

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 811295
American Catholic Church Tel. 711351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 61391
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate in Aqaba, winds will be

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

28.36

northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

AMMAN

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 28
Aqaba 24 / 36
Deserts 18 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Muntahir Al Oursini 776258
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Salman Daboubi 776751
Dr. Mohammad Al Awad 741391
Pines pharmacy 651912
Ferdous pharmacy 778236
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmoukhi pharmacy 637460

DRUGS

Dr. Mahmoud 681000
Al Shams pharmacy 985328

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Aghabawi 985417
Khafif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 8

Prince Hassan urges peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is firmly against the acquisition of land by force, but the country believes that any solution to the Gulf crisis requires diplomatic rather than military action, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday.

In two interviews with Mexican and German television, the Crown Prince said confrontation in the Gulf could only bring about more bitterness, increased and more violence.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan maintained good relations with the other Arab countries and with Europe and that Jordanians never differentiated between the Arabs of the north and those of the south.

Europeans are not very happy with what is going on in our

streets, he said. But they were all the time urging us to democratise, and now that people are expressing their opinion freely they (the Europeans) are not happy.

He said that people, especially the young ones had become frustrated with the status quo. In the area between Cairo and Islamabad, there are 300 million people, and 70 per cent of them are under 15 years of age and many are without jobs and many feel the area has no political future, he said.

Asked of what he thought would happen in the Gulf, the Prince said that what he thought would happen was different from what he hoped would not happen. I fear war and the tram-

pling over human dignity, he said.

He said he was worried that the ongoing campaign against the Arabs and the escalation of tension would distort the Arab and Islamic image before the world.

Referring to the internment of foreign children in Iraq, the Prince said that it was a horrible thing to expose children to danger and that once escalation of tension had stopped all issues could be discussed and the children could safely find their way out of Iraq and Kuwait.

The Prince said that Jordanians would continue to maintain and bolster the national unity and cohesion in the face of all crises, and noted that he would prefer to live and die with the Jordanian

people on Jordanian soil.

Prince Hassan expressed the view that isolating Iraq and imposing trade sanctions on that country with the purpose of strangling it can only lead to confrontation.

He said that no one could benefit from the destruction of the Middle East.

"The blockade on Iraq is adversely affecting Jordan and bringing mounting pressure on the Kingdom," he said.

Referring to the temporary closure of the border crossing point between Jordan and Iraq, the Prince said that the measure was taken to allow for arrangements to be made for the transportation of the evacuees who had already crossed into Jordan.

Princess Basma tours south

MAAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday made an inspection tour of voluntary and charitable services in the Maan area in southern Jordan, visiting Maan, Aqaba and Sadaqa village.

The Princess, who is chairperson of Queen Alia Social welfare Fund's board of Trustees also was briefed on the services offered to the Arab expatriates who had arrived in southern Jordan and were awaiting transportation for their home countries.

The Princess said that Queen Alia Fund in cooperation with the local scout movements should join efforts with Jordanian charitable and voluntary organisations to provide relief assistance to the expatriates.

Princess Basma toured several centres where the expatriates were being housed and announced that Queen Alia Fund was supplying food and other relief supplies to the expatriates in the south.

The Princess chaired a meeting in Aqaba for officials involved in the relief operations to discuss the nature of assistance needed for the evacuees.

She also inspected the social development and community centres in Maan and reviewed with those in charge of the various services and activities which included training for local women, health and food assistance to the local population and civil defence training for women.

The Princess visited a workshop for training women on dress making and classes offering adult education and secretarial courses. She also visited a kindergarten and a special unit producing mats and floor covers carried out by local women.

Local officials from Aqaba and Maan accompanied the Princess on the tour.



The Jordanian women Thursday march to express Hussein for his efforts to achieve peace in the region loyalty to and support for His Majesty King (Photo Yousif Al Alami)

Jordan's women rally behind King Hussein's leadership

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About one thousand two hundred Jordanian women staged a peaceful march Thursday to express their loyalty to and support for His Majesty King Hussein for his continuous efforts to achieve peace in the region.

The marchers, carrying banners and pictures of King Hussein, walked from Jabal Al Hussein to Basman Palace. Their representatives then met with Crown Prince Hassan and handed him a letter on behalf of all Jordanian women showing their support to the leadership's firm stand and diplomacy during the recent Gulf crisis.

"... People everywhere always looked up to you (King Hussein) while you were practicing your well known diplomacy in solving problems. Everyone considers you a safety valve for the whole Arab World..." the letter said.

Nimra Tannous, one of the 27 women who were on the preparatory committee for the march, then delivered a speech thanking King Hussein for all

his diplomatic efforts in reaching a fair and peaceful solution to the recent crisis in the Gulf area.

Prince Hassan, who met with the representatives, thanked them for their support and belief in King Hussein and relayed His Majesty's greetings to all the women of Jordan, praising their firm stand behind his leadership.

"When we see him on television we see a man who has aged a hundred years and our hearts go out to him," one of the demonstrators, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times. "We don't want war, we want to live in peace, we want our children to live in peace," another demonstrator said.

The organisers of the Thursday march were a group of independent women who decided to show their allegiance to King Hussein by organising this demonstration of support. "This is not a political march, we do not belong to any political group or organisations, we are all mothers and housewives who are concerned about the future of our children and the Arab World," Alia Adwan, one of the organisers

said. She also added that the march was different from any other previous marcher because it was intended solely to support King Hussein and to "show our allegiance for his patriotic stand."

"Burb should have slowed down in sending troops to Saudi Arabia," Lamia Judeh, another organiser said, reaffirming one of the objectives of the march that called on the world to listen to King Hussein. "He is a wise and experienced man and he knows what is going to happen if the military buildup in the Gulf continues," Judeh added.

"Don't trade oil with blood," read one of the many banners the demonstrators were carrying during the march, in an indirect plea to the United States to stop escalating the Gulf crisis through its continuous military buildup. "We have had enough of war, the King is calling for a peaceful solution, but no one wants to listen to him now, why? Hasn't he always been regarded as a moderate Arab leader? Why are they abandoning him now?" One of the demonstrators asked.

West Germany to help Jordan handle evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — West Germany became the first nation to respond favourably to Jordan's appeal for humanitarian assistance to the thousands of Arab and foreign nationals fleeing the Gulf zone to Jordan on their way home.

A press release from the West German embassy here said that upon a request from the Jordanian government, the Federal Republic of Germany was offering humanitarian aid to the expatriates of all nationalities coming from Iraq and Kuwait to Jordan on the way to their home countries.

The aid will mainly consist of canned food: tuna, corned beef, cheese, biscuits, vitamin tablets and powdered milk for children.

In addition to 4.5 tonnes of food of different sorts, tents and two ambulance cars will be put at the disposal of the concerned Jordanian authorities, the embassy statement said.

Jordan, through a new formed committee charged with the re-

sponsibility of providing help to the Arab and foreign nationals flooding the country, Thursday began its contacts with embassies and diplomatic missions here to ensure humanitarian assistance to the evacuees.

Salameh Hammad, who chairs the committee, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that committee members have already approached international organisations and were taking measures to ensure accommodation for Arab and foreign nationals who cross into Jordanian territory from Iraq.

"The committee has also decided to assign several centres for receiving and caring for the evacuees and arrange with the concerned embassies for their transportation home," Hammad said.

On Thursday the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced its response to the Jordanian government's appeal for help, and said it would supply medicine, milk and other basic

foodstuffs and shelter needs for the evacuees in cooperation with the concerned authorities here.

According to the West German Embassy statement, the German assistance was due in Amman Friday Aug. 24 aboard a Lufthansa (German Airline) flight, and the West German government was reviewing the situation with a view to providing further additional deliveries.

The committee to care for the Arab and foreign expatriates in Jordan was announced by Prime Minister Mudar Badran in a communique on Thursday. It groups five members representing the ministries of foreign affairs, health, supply, transport and the Public Security Department.

According to the communique, the committee will carry out the following:

- Draw up plans for means of handling the expected inflow of expatriates.
- Assign centres for putting up the evacuees, and supply the

basic necessities for them.

- Organise the transportation process from the border with Iraq to these centres and from the centres to the airports and Aqaba for the expatriates departure.
- Coordinate with foreign diplomatic missions in Amman through the Foreign Ministry to take charge of the mission of ensuring the expatriates' departure.
- Receive representatives of regional and international organisations which offer assistance to the evacuees and help them with their mission in Jordan.
- Coordinate with the information services to ensure proper coverage of the whole process of handling the expatriates affairs.
- Submit daily reports on the numbers of expatriates, their nationalities and their distribution at the centres and the cost of their accommodation.

The prime minister requested that all government departments assist the ad hoc committee with its tasks.

Restaurant offers free meals to Kuwaitis

By Nur Sati
Special to Jordan Times

AMMAN — While the Jordanian government grapples with the growing problem of refugees, the private sector, including organisations, churches, mosques and schools are contributing their share to ease the pressure on Jordan as well as the refugees.

One example of private sector initiative is the Reem Al-Badawi restaurant which is offering free meals to the people of Kuwait. "We only give the free meals to Kuwaitis because they are the ones who have the problem," says the restaurant manager, Mustafa Alawih.

While some people think he is discriminating against other Arab nationals who left Kuwait and Iraq and are also very much in need, Alawih maintains that "the Kuwaitis are the ones who have the problem, other Arab people can go back to their countries. It is the Kuwaitis who have nobody in Jordan and who will

spend the longest time here."

To many passersby, this idea seems humane, but one person in the restaurant said: "I wonder how much the manager is losing." "For a restaurant not to make profits is not an issue when there are hundreds if not thousands hungry," Alawih says.

An apparently regular customer to the restaurant commented that this was not the first time Reem Al-Badawi makes a humanitarian gesture, "certainly," Alawih claims, if anyone came into the restaurant without money we would offer them food."

Although during the lunch hour not many people were in sight at the restaurant free man's were being prepared awaiting the grateful Kuwaitis. But the restaurant manager says that not many Kuwaitis come into the restaurant.

According to Alawih, Reem Al-Badawi has been preparing free meals since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on August 2 and "I will continue to do so until there is no more need."

His Majesty King Hussein said in a press conference Wednesday that Jordan was facing grave difficulties in coping with the massive influx of refugees. "We have some serious problems of a serious dimension," the King said. "We have received in Jordan, since the crisis began, about 185,000 people. Sixty seven thousand have left and we are finding enormous difficulties," he added.

Organisations and individuals are also offering assistance. One such group, the executive committee for emergency mobilisation at the Professional Associations Complex, set up in the first week of August, is offering food, clothing, medical care and shelter to about 4,000 refugees from Kuwait and Iraq, according to Dr. Musa Hmeid, head of the committee.

"We are housing them at the professional unions complex building and six mosques around Amman," Hmeid told the Jordan Times. "We are trying to help everyone regard-

less of nationality," he added.

The committee relies on volunteers and donations but Hmeid said he hoped there would be more international assistance to help the thousands crossing into Jordan from Iraq.

Embassies in Amman are also trying to help the Kingdom cope with the influx by providing assistance, including housing and transportation for their nationals. The Federal Republic of Germany is sending 200,000 marks (around \$128,000) worth of food to Jordan to be distributed through the Ministry of Supply. According to embassy sources, the first shipment has arrived.

Individuals are also seen donating nutritious valuable food to the refugees who have been taken under the wings of mosques, churches, schools and camping site areas. One large area near Marj Al-Hammam, the Amman International Fair Center, has recently opened its gates to the refugees.

Jordanian children appeal to world leaders to lift blockade against Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of Jordanian children aged 3-13 years Thursday staged a sit-in in the International Red Cross Society premises in Amman to protest the blockade against Iraq which is causing great harm to the Iraqi children who are now suffering from the shortage of milk and foodstuffs.

The Jordanian children appealed to the world leaders to take the necessary steps to ensure the prompt lifting of blockade against Iraq and to assist the Iraqi children.

The children expressed support for their Iraqi brothers, and voiced their resolve to share the loaf of bread and glass of milk with them not to let them starve.

The children expressed their condemnation of the blockade imposed on Iraq, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

The Arabic daily Al Rai reported that some of the participants had voiced their concern over the situation of the Iraqi children and called on the world leaders to intervene immediately and save the "innocent Iraqi children from eventual starvation and death if the present blockade continues."

One of the participants called for shifting the venue of the World Summit for Children, to be held in New York on Sept. 30, to Baghdad.

The 13-year-old Nadia Bushnaq said that the U.S. was no longer qualified to host the meeting, which is primarily dedicated to discussing means of protecting children not "starving them."

A nine year old boy, Ali Mohammad Qatani, said that the Jordanian children rejected the blockade imposed on Iraq by the U.S., and expressed the Jordanians' support for the Iraqi children.

He added that Israel had been starving and depriving Palestinian children of their basic right to education, with the full support and blessing of the U.S. government, which is now starving the Iraqi children for no reason.

The 12 year old Suha Makaleh asked that the American forces and their allies leave from the Arab region, and appealed to Arab children in the Arab countries to stage similar sit-ins, in protest against the American invasion of the Arab homeland.



Jordanian children Thursday stage a sit-in to protest the blockade against Iraq (Petra photo)

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Please make sure that names, telephones and P.O. Box numbers are clearly shown on the sealed envelope from the outside.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour unions to take part in Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions will take part in the emergency meetings of the central council of the Arab Labourers which will start in Tunis Sept. 3. The meetings will discuss issues related to foreign military intervention in the Arab Gulf region. Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Libya and Tunisia have called for the meeting.

Gas masked valid if licensed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) has asked all merchants selling chemical gas masks to bring the masks to CDD for being inspected and licensed. The CDD said that citizens should buy only licensed masks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarb displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

New 20 dinar bill put into circulation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new Jordanian banknote of the JD 20 bill will be put into circulation in Jordan Saturday, Aug. 25, 1990 and will be used alongside the current banknotes with no difference in value, according to an announcement by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

The announcement said that the new JD 20 bill will carry the same specifications, but its colour will be light blue.

The Jordan Times on Thursday published a report about the expected CBJ move which coincides with a public rush for cash during the ongoing crisis, and the availability of the new banknotes which

were printed 10 years ago and kept by the CBJ.

"The new banknotes will continue to remain valid and carry the same legal value until all the old paper money has been replaced in the market," said the CBJ in its announcement.

The CBJ also decided not to place any restrictions on withdrawals from the banks or stop attempts for withdrawing fixed deposits before their maturity date.

The CBJ believes that the new banknotes do not only replace the old worn-out paper money, but they are also more difficult to counterfeit.

*Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous.*

القنصلية الفخرية لجمهورية كولومبيا

يسر القنصل الفخري لجمهورية كولومبيا في عمان الطلب من رعايا كولومبيا في الأردن تسجيل اسمهم وعناوينهم لدى مقر القنصلية الكائن في جبل عمان - شارع الحسين بن علي - بناية فاين - ٦٥٣٨٨ وذلك للاتصال بهم عند الحاجة.

أليبا نقل
القنصل الفخري لكولومبيا

CONSULADO HONORARIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

EL CONSUL HONORARIO DE COLOMBIA EN AMMAN RUEGA A LOS CIUDADANOS COLOMBIANOS EN EL REINO HACHEMITA DE JORDANIA INSCRIBIR SUS NOMBRES Y DIRECCIONES EN LA OFICINA DEL CONSULADO CUYA DIRECCION ES LA SIGUIENTE:

JABAL AMMAN
CALLE AL-HUSSEIN BEN ALI
EDIFICIO DEL FINE
TELEFONO: 652688

Y ELLO PARA REFERIR EN CASO DE NECESIDAD.
ELIA C. NUQUIL
CONSUL AD-HONOREM DE COLOMBIA

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
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Future at stake

WITH the U.S. and Iraq staying on a collision course and heading towards an imminent military confrontation every effort must be made to avoid disaster in the Gulf region. The prevention of a conflagration there must be made the highest priority issue on the agenda of the international community. Thus far Arab efforts to keep the Kuwaiti crisis an Arab subject have failed and the Arab World remains helplessly divided on it. Even U.N. efforts have been orchestrated more by Washington's deliberate plans to escalate the Gulf crisis than by the desire to find a reasonable way out. This leaves the world with one more option to explore — new and stepped up Arab and international efforts to defuse the crisis.

His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday started a new move to get those Arabs who have maintained open channels with both Baghdad and Washington to redouble their efforts in finding a way out. So his move should take care of attempts to rebuild the Arab context in which the Iraq-Kuwait issue can hopefully be tackled.

As to the hope of starting international mediation efforts, the presence in Amman yesterday of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and his forthcoming visit to Baghdad is an encouraging sign that something could still be done to salvage the situation. President Waldheim's long and productive experience as an international mediator and statesman, as well as his personal relationship with President Saddam Hussein, should strengthen the hands of those who see objective diplomacy as the only means left to avert a destructive explosion in the Gulf region and the whole Middle East. Let us hope, therefore, that Jordan's and Austria's individual and joint endeavours can at least ignite in others the need to do something positive and urgent. A big step forward here can be taken if the door is opened for third parties, particularly neutral and non-aligned, to come in. As the Non-Aligned Movement comprises two-thirds of world's countries, it is incumbent on them to make their voices heard as the consequences of any war in the Gulf would affect them in the most direct way. The Third World cannot allow the developed world to push them into a new abyss in their efforts to develop their economies and bridge the gap dividing them from the industrial nations. Maybe a war in the Middle East suits the economic purposes and interests of the Western nations whose industries stand to profit a great deal from the activation of their armament industries at the expense of the poor countries of the world. The industrial military complex in the U.S. stands to gain substantially from a war situation in the Middle East and there are already signs that billions worth of American military hardware will be sold to Middle East countries and to the U.S. itself in the wake of the war hysteria that Washington has orchestrated recently. The neutral world, and Non-Aligned Movement as well as peace-loving nations have now an opportunity to prove their relevancy by putting together an international effort for the purpose of preventing the outbreak of war in the Gulf. The future of their generations and of peace and security in the world is at stake.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

KING HUSSEIN's current tour of Arab capitals in a last ditch attempt to pool their efforts to contain the Gulf crisis reflects the fact that Jordan has not lost hope of finding a peaceful end to the problem, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. The enemies of the Arab people will not doubt rejoice if the Arabs fail to handle their own problems by themselves, and the war mongers will continue their drive to find a pretext for the Western powers to start the war, the paper continued. The Arabs are now hearing the beating of the drums of war at their door step, and they are witnessing an escalation of psychological warfare being waged on them all directions, but Jordan and other Arab states can and should defy such situation and work towards the attainment of peace, the paper said. King Hussein's talks in Yemen and Sudan were aimed to save the region and the whole world from a major catastrophe, and his on-going endeavours elsewhere are directed towards peace, the paper noted. All the peace-loving nations of the world, he paper said, should not only support Jordan's endeavours for peace, but ought to take active part in such efforts and defuse tension. The paper said that despite the difficult situation for Jordan, this country is not only seeking the establishment of peace, but is also offering assistance to the influx of evacuees stranded in this country, and for this humanitarian effort, the Kingdom deserves support and backing. The paper paid tribute to the King's efforts on the domestic and external fronts and said his work is designed to protect human lives and safeguard world peace.

A Columnist in Al RA'i daily notes that the United States was finding in the presence of Syrian, Moroccan and Egyptian forces in Arabia a useful umbrella for justifying the presence of its force in the peninsula. Mahmood Khasawi says that certain Arab countries benefiting from the U.S.-Iraqi confrontation are backing the presence of hostile forces, and some of them are even praying for the Americans to come out victorious. The writer also bitterly criticises the Soviet Union which seems to be helpless and under the mercy of the United States and its arrogance. He says Moscow and also Peking are timidly trying to seek the United Nations help to undertake the responsibility of imposing sanctions on Iraq, in a bid to escape America's hegemony. Should a conflict break out and should such hostile forces succeed in their drive against the Arab and Islamic nations, Kuwait and other countries of the region will only be liberated from their Arabism and from their dignity, and the way will be open for the United States and its allies to draw up the new map of the Arab World, the writer adds. But, he notes, that the Iraqi people will not be alone in the battle; and that any aggression will immediately draw in the millions of honourable men in Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and other areas to help Iraq defend the Arab soil.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

The West and the need for dialogue

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

However may this crisis be resolved, it is bound to leave a heavy wound that will take a very long time to heal. One of the saddest byproducts, is the realisation that the Arabs have not yet truly won their independence, and that they remain mere pawns to be played against each other. Two wrongs never make a right. It was not right that one Arab country invade another, but then it was wrong for one Arab to fight another at a time when they should be working towards the diffusion of the problem within the Arab fold. Just in the past few months I was beginning to think that we are finally maturing and that the Arab League, while not an ideal umbrella, was developing along with the summit institution in the right direction.

No sooner had the crisis begun than the whole Arab order collapsed, and in a manner that promises to take a very long time, if ever, for the system to be revived. For the past two decades I have avoided the use of the words "colonialism" or "imperialism" thinking that we

have won independence and some international status. But the speed with which some have volunteered to fight against their fellow Arabs, and in cooperation with foreign troops shocked me, like most Arabs into the terrible reality of our situation. This is not in defence of the occupation of Kuwait, which should in the contemporary scheme of things be restored, but a refusal to believe how quickly the bottom has fallen from under our order. Whatever the merits of the situation may have been to condemn the invasion of Kuwait, we should have worked towards a solution within our own ranks.

Surely our people, throughout the Arab world realise that Western rapid movement and with such force had some ulterior motives: the continued flow of cheap oil to the industrialised world for one. The more important reason is to strike a blow to the Arab world that would render it dismembered for a very, very long time. It is no longer a question of Kuwait or even oil, but something

deeper that speaks of an intense hatred towards a civilisation that is possibly the only one left to challenge Western hegemony. Gorbachev not only knelt freely, but with nothing in return, he gave up the struggle thereby leaving the arena open for the West to become the self-appointed policeman of the world.

Western hatred of the Arabs stretches way back to the Crusades and even earlier. It is a hatred more to the Arab personality than it is to Islam. Just witness the very amicable relations the West has with Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, even Iran, but not with Arabs. In our case the West may on occasion, find itself clients: clients that it really despises, but never partners. Partly accounting for this hostility is, of course, Israel.

In the confused Western mind with its logical penchant to see things only in terms of black and white; right and wrong; good versus bad, it could never understand the complicated, though very sophisticated way the Arab

tends to look at things. How, for instance, can the Arabs wish peace with Israel or more recently, how could President Saddam Hussein turn around after eight years with Iran and accept the very terms he fought against for eight years!

Arab hatred already deep in the Western mind, fed upon as well as was nourished by the Zionist claims not only of racial exclusivity and superiority but of the dehumanising reduction of the Arab into a non-entity; an anti hero; an ugly figure.

And while until the advent of this century, the West held some curiosity about us, our culture and "exotic" ways, even this curiosity was lost with the advent of the mass media which literally reduced the matter to mere black and white affair. After all mass media is called mass media because it caters to the unsophisticated masses whose tendency of reductionism of the most complex situations to understandable, simple, even simplistic explanations, goes without saying.

Beleagued, bounded and friendless that we are, we often behave and act in the most foolish fashion, thus feeding an already prejudiced view point eager to find proof of its premises. It matters little whether we are liberal or totalitarian, moderate or radical. Ultimately we are all treated with the same condescending disdain. The West has convinced itself that we are ugly and thus has deliberately gone about dialoguing with us with deliberate and calculated misunderstanding. They appear to see but definitely without sight and less so with insight. They listen, or appears to be doing so, without hearing. They have convinced themselves that the only language we understand is that of violence and the use of force. Gunboat diplomacy and a condescending despising attitude.

The present 1990 Gulf crisis provided the West with the excuse to do what it is about to do. It is no longer over Kuwait or who should rule it, however legally desirable this may be, but a death fight of desper-

ate men on all sides seemingly intent on mutual suicide.

We need to settle our disputes with the West. However way this crisis may be resolved, the Western mind needs to be set finally at ease otherwise our troubles of the future will be greater. The West is our largest market and the closest neighbour to the area. It is a matter of the greatest and gravest concern to our continued survival to find the ways and means whereby we can truly communicate, and not merely shout at each other. But then, and before we do that, we need to reconcile ourselves with ourselves and settle once and for all the suspicions and the animosities we hold towards each other. Force must never again be the only way to communicate between Arab and Arab. We should head the Arab popular saying, "when God wishes the ruin of a people, he sets them against each other." I think that in this case God is innocent of our situation, the mighty dollar or the invincible oil is more to blame.

Open letter to the representatives of the Western press and media in Jordan

WE WOULD like to welcome our esteemed colleagues in our country and express readiness to extend help to facilitate your mission in the Kingdom. As journalists, we do appreciate the pressures you must be under, covering a complex and an extremely sensitive event, and value your efforts to provide a balanced and comprehensive reporting of the Gulf crisis.

We believe that the role of the press and the media is essential to promoting understanding and bridging the gap between the different cultures, particularly that you have chosen a country like Jordan where we have gone a long way in achieving democracy and freedom of the press and thus helping to create a comfortable atmosphere for your mission here.

We are extremely alarmed, however, by the widening gap between the West and East, or perhaps more accurately, the North and the South, as the spectre of war looms large over our region threatening international security and peace.

We fear that amid the ongoing "war of words," which might easily erupt into a destructive and real war, facts and human values and rights can be completely overshadowed by stereotypes and biases.

Unfortunately, the media everywhere can fall into the trap of perpetuating images, stereotypes and feeding double standards. The international media, with its vast facilities and huge budgets, can be more influential in either promoting understanding or widening the cultural gap.

We do not expect you to always agree with our viewpoint, nor to endorse our opinions. But we urge you to explore the other perspective and the historical background which shaped our nation's aspirations, positions and interests.

We do not claim that we are totally neutral. All journalists are influenced — to a certain extent — by their cultural background, national interests and personal experiences. We all have our biases which influence our assessments and analyses. But it is our feeling that it is the Western perspective and viewpoint which dominate the international media; whereas the interests and aspirations of the nations whose interests conflict with the West are often either ignored or distorted.

We have no doubt that each one of you is trying his/her best to understand and convey a comprehensive coverage of the crisis in the area, taking

into consideration editorial and other limitations.

However, we remain at a disadvantage. It is the international Western media which shapes the world's public opinion and not the limited local and Third World press. Because of your advantage, there is a professional responsibility on your part to express more understanding during this crisis.

Therefore, selectively in news coverage in the international media can be very damaging not only to the peoples of the region, but also to international cooperation and mutual understanding.

If our leaders fail to understand that world peace depends largely on mutual respect for the cultures and interests of other nations in the world, then we, within our capacity as professional and responsible journalists, should work together through dialogue to provide a foundation for international peace. The Gulf crisis, and your presence in Jordan, may be the perfect opportunity to start that type of dialogue for the sake of world peace, security and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,
Members of the Jordanian press
Sixty-six signatures

Saddam the man... Saddam the symbol

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

IN THE West, Saddam Hussein is seen as a dangerous head of state. He is believed to be a dictator who does not hesitate to kill his political enemies. He is thought to have unlawful ambitions and aggressive intentions. To the Western mind, he has become militarily too strong, and therefore a potential threat to his neighbours and other countries in the region. He was described by every foul adjective allowed in the mass media. They called him the "butcher of Baghdad" and other names. Yet, with all that hate, I have not read or heard anybody accusing him of being a gambler, a womaniser, or having fat bank accounts and palaces outside his country!

The West hates Saddam Hussein, and we the Arabs, understand why. We understand very well why, he is so much feared and hated by the Israelis, the Americans, and some of the Europeans. They have their points. We also fully understand why he is feared and hated by some Arab leaders too. They also have their points, and we understand them as well.

The question is: if Saddam Hussein has all those reasons to be hated and feared, then why are there so many Arabs who like him, and are ready to support him?

At the start, I must admit that not all Arabs like him or agree with his policies. But one should be objective enough to admit that the majority of the Arab masses support him. Even citizens of Arab countries whose leaders are against him, do believe in him, and if allowed, will show it.

My other question is: if the Arabs can understand why the West hate him, can the West try to understand why the Arabs like him?

Over the last 40 years, the Arabs have tried every available civilised, and sometimes uncivilised, means to draw the attention of the world to their legitimate rights. They achieved nothing. But during this long journey to convince the world of their just cause, few convictions were firmly established in their minds:

1. The world can be chronically unfair.
2. Despite of all the significance of democratic civilisation, only might is right.
3. America, the leader of the world, has double standards, and therefore cannot be fully trusted.
4. Talking can drag forever if the other party is not listening.
5. The use of force to achieve one's goals can be legitimate, provided you are strong enough.
6. America, respects only the strong, and does not like the weak.

After four decades of verbal activity and diplomatic talks, the Arabs have gained nothing but frustration. They got sick

and tired of table battles and classroom discussions. They got dizzy moving in a circle. They feel they have been swimming in a vocal swamp. Forty years of deaf dialogues have convinced them that only some kind of ground action can draw the lost attention of the world to their cause. Most of the Arab leaders argued our case in a civilised manner consistent with Western rules and regulations, only to lose credibility with their own people after repeated unfulfilled promises. Due to this prolonged inaction, the Arab's dream has become very vivid: If only we have somebody who acts, and not talk. Saddam did, and scored his first point of popularity with the Arab masses.

Again, it is doubtful whether all Arabs agree with Saddam's actions, but there is no doubt that every Arab is fully convinced that 40 years of diplomatic dialogue and civilised pleas proved completely ineffective to initiate a world action towards regaining our legitimate rights.

Because of religious and cultural reasons, Arabs and Muslims look at the extravagant with disapproving eyes. All our religious teachings praise the rich, but only if his brothers, relatives and neighbours are not in need. Actually there are a number of sacred verses demanding the rich to share their wealth with the poor. But more important are the verses that openly encourage the poor to ask for help from the rich. What the West does not, or cannot understand, is that sharing wealth between poor and rich in the Arabic culture and Islamic teachings, is neither a begging behaviour, nor an aggressive act, but is treated almost as personal and legal right for all Muslims.

Over the last four decades, needy Arabs have been watching with ever increasing bitterness, petro-money being spent on gambling, women, and extravagance, at a time when hard working Arabs were sinking to their necks in debt and poverty. Over the same period, the oil-owning families of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia were busy exporting oil...and corruption. In their attempt to get richer, they introduced alien behaviours and a strange new culture, the "commission culture," which disturbed our deep rooted cultural norms and opposed our religious teachings. Consequently, a new and hungry social class quickly erupted and lost time, money or effort to damage the image of the Arabs in the West. To add insult to injury, the corrupt, and the guardians of Islam and the holy places, were two faces for the same coin, an ugly fact Arabs and Muslims had to swallow with great pain and agony. However, much worse was the political corruption that under-

mined our national aspirations, national security, and national dignity... a colossal corruption the files of which are better kept in the secret file cabinets of the West.

Under these circumstances, the fetus of bitterness in the Arab hearts, grew fast and steady. It grew so large it finally had to be delivered not by a midwife, but by a surgeon. There was no other way. From the point of view of Arabs and Muslims, Saddam Hussein acted against the rich brother who refused to help his poor brother. The legality of his action is verified by Islamic teachings. But this act, he scored one more point with the average Arab.

Probably the most important factor for Saddam's popularity is what I call the "yes complex." "For the last few decades the Arabs said nothing but yes. We have become the yes people of the world. Whenever the West demanded, our answer was positive. Despite that, we gained nothing to return. Consequently, "no" became a dream. "No" even with unpredictable results, meant a fresh gush of dignity, a gesture of courage. The ordinary Arab citizen thought: if during all this time, America, the leader of this world, did not hear our "yes," may be it will hear our "no." Saddam Hussein freed the average Arab from his chronic nightmare of the "yes complex" and scored a third point.

Saddam Hussein is a natural product of a seed that was planted by Nasser. But that plant was nurtured to this size and force by the West. It was pushed to this calibre by the West's persistent deafness to the Arabs' just appeals.

It is true Saddam Hussein plays by his own rules and standards. The world does not like it. The Arabs do not like it either. But it is only natural to put your own rules and standards if you discover your judge uses double standards. And if you fail after 40 years of playing according to the civil-

ised rules, you may think of changing the rules.

For the Arabs Saddam is a symbol. He could be anybody else. Any Arab who can say "no" for the purpose of correcting injustice inflicted on the Arabs, whether economic or political, will rally Arabs behind him. What the West should fear is the next generation of Arabs. If we cannot regain our legitimate rights, the world should expect millions of Saddams.

Again, not all of us agree with Saddam Hussein the man, but it is hard to find an honest Arab who will not support Saddam the symbol. Only if or when the West understands this, can the West understand the present stand of the poor Jordanians and their honest leader.

إلى من لا يملك

Brotherhood intensifies campaign against foreign presence in Gulf

By Marwan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JWEIDEH. — In what seems to be a hardening stance towards foreign intervention in the Middle East, members of the Muslim Brotherhood Friday called on all Muslims to reconsider their "reconciliation" stands on Arab and Muslim issues and prepare themselves to eliminate treachery, corruption and imperialist influence in the region.

"We have been too docile, (and) too willing to reconcile ourselves with wrongs done to us by others," Abdul Hafith Al Alawi told about 3,000 people gathered in an open field in Jweideh, a dusty town south of Amman.

"We have accepted that European Jews occupy Palestine and rule Muslim shrines in Jerusalem. Now will we also accept that the armies of a Zionist-imperialist America rule Mecca and Medina? What has the world come to? Have we no pride?" Alawi asked in a thundering voice.

Notables of the Muslim Brotherhood addressed the

crowd of about 2,500 men and 300 women in what seemed to be a more concerted effort by the Brotherhood to retain prominence in the political arena. While Islamist groups have effectively been working alongside pan-Arab and leftist groups to organize popular support for Iraq and voice opposition to foreign intervention in the region since the Gulf crisis began three weeks ago, the continued condemnation of leftist political thought at Brotherhood rallies has not ceased.

During an anti-foreign intervention rally in Maan last Wednesday Muslim Brotherhood members quarrelled with pan-Arabists in an apparent violation of a decision made by the Brotherhood's leadership to put differences aside for the moment and "work together in the greater interests of the region."

In Jweideh, Alawi charged that the communist world had not been better than the imperialist West in their "actual" role in the Middle East. "They pretended to be our friends, but of course they were not, and those who were foolish

enough to believe them have paid their price," Alawi told the crowd, which included at least 200 children.

Speakers charged that Arab leaders had allowed the Middle East to be ruled by foreign powers and exploited to benefit non-Arab interests. "We control nothing," said one. "We do not control our water flow, our oil flow or our governments, and now Americans in shorts will control the holiest shrines of Islam."

Squandering of Arab wealth by "the rich and affluent" was described by one speaker as the "epitome of decadence which we have allowed by our inaction against those who control the wealth in Arabia."

who have no pride, and of those who won't fight for justice deserve to be humiliated by injustice."

A musical group from Yarmouk University concluded the rally with songs calling for the defence of Jordan and the greater Arab Homeland.

"This homeland — the foreigners don't want it to exist," said one participant pointing to a foreign photographer.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the only political grouping in Jordan that has been permitted to function openly in the Kingdom since political parties were banned in 1957. The group ran as an official bloc in last November's parliamentary elections and won 22 seats in the 80-member parliament. Supported by about 10 other Islamists, the group carries considerable weight in the Lower House. Political parties are expected to be legalised once a National Charter is announced later this year and the Brotherhood, according to analysts might not be able to repeat such gains once other political groups can operate on the same footing.

Rotary Club assails U.S., West, urges objective media approach

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Rotary Club of Jordan Friday assailed what it described as the double standards of the United States and the West and called on the media to approach the Gulf crisis and the entire Middle East conflict with an even-handed approach.

Addressing Anis Mu'asher a press conference, Rotary Club member outlined past and present political issues in relation to the Gulf crisis. "We (the Rotary Club) are dedicated to creating greater understanding. We want to try to rupture the drums of war and build a monument for peace in the region," Mu'asher said.

Mu'asher reviewed the recent history of the Middle East, and the treatment of Sharif Hussein Ben Ali by the allies, which led to the creation of the modern state of Israel in Palestine and the separation of Kuwait from Iraq "to further the goals of the colonial powers."

He referred to the "double standard" treatment of Arabs by the United States and the West. "The United States and its Western allies claim to uphold international law, but when Israel ignored U.N. Resolution 242, and entered Lebanon in 1982 we did not see an international blockade or a reduction in arms sales forced upon it," he said. "We reject selective enforcement and injustices made to the Arabs."

In the recent Gulf crisis and the American led campaign against Iraq, Mu'asher said, nobody cared to listen to the other side. "We continue to hear about the threat of chemical warfare by Iraq, but why don't we see anything done to the thousands of Palestinians that die daily at the hands of Israeli soldiers using American weapons? Why has the U.S. not seen it fit to stop sales of weapons and arms to Israel?" he said.

He then addressed the American stand against Iraq.

Qasem

(Continued from page 1)

but said it would observe U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held a meeting Thursday with the ambassadors of the five permanent U.N. Security Council member countries and voiced Jordan's concern over the draft Security Council resolution calling for the use of force to impose economic sanctions on Iraq.

Prince Hassan told the ambassadors that the move would cause serious consequences and could pave the way for Israel to launch an aggression on Iraq.

Moscow

(Continued from page 1)

"Iraq is sending ships to export oil all over the world," he said. Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon later displayed photocopies of the photos and ridiculed their authenticity, saying that the United States and Britain appeared to be "whipping up a war-like hysteria."

"Why are some people apparently so eager to go to war and mislead public opinion?" Alarcon asked,

reflected in the military build-up in the Gulf and wondered why President Bush refused to give Iraq an opportunity to negotiate in order to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"Bush gave the Arab leaders 48 hours to solve the crisis, disregarding Arab pleas, especially those made by King Hussein, not to interfere in Arab conflicts," Mu'asher said. He also discredited claims that Arabs cannot solve their own problems by referring to the Qatar and Bahrain dispute that would have ended up in military confrontation if it were not for Arab mediation and the conflict.

"I appeal to you to emphasise efforts at peace and to negotiate before we have bloodshed," Mu'asher said. "Let us try to change the tunes of war to peaceful melodies," he added.

The Rotary Club was founded in 1905 in Chicago by a lawyer named Paul Harris, has branches in 160 countries with a total of 24,500 clubs worldwide. It was founded in Arab Jerusalem in 1927, and was later established in Jordan in 1956.

"We believe in service as a means for enrichment of life," Raouf Abu Jaber, past district governor of the Rotary Clubs in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus, Bahrain, and Sudan, told the Jordan Times.

"Our latest project is the \$370,000 polio plus vaccination programme that provides the necessary services for children to prevent polio," Abu Jaber said. He also talked about other programmes dedicated to help the handicapped in Jordan.

"Our services include providing the community with money, planning and volunteers, especially in vocational services," Abu Jaber said.

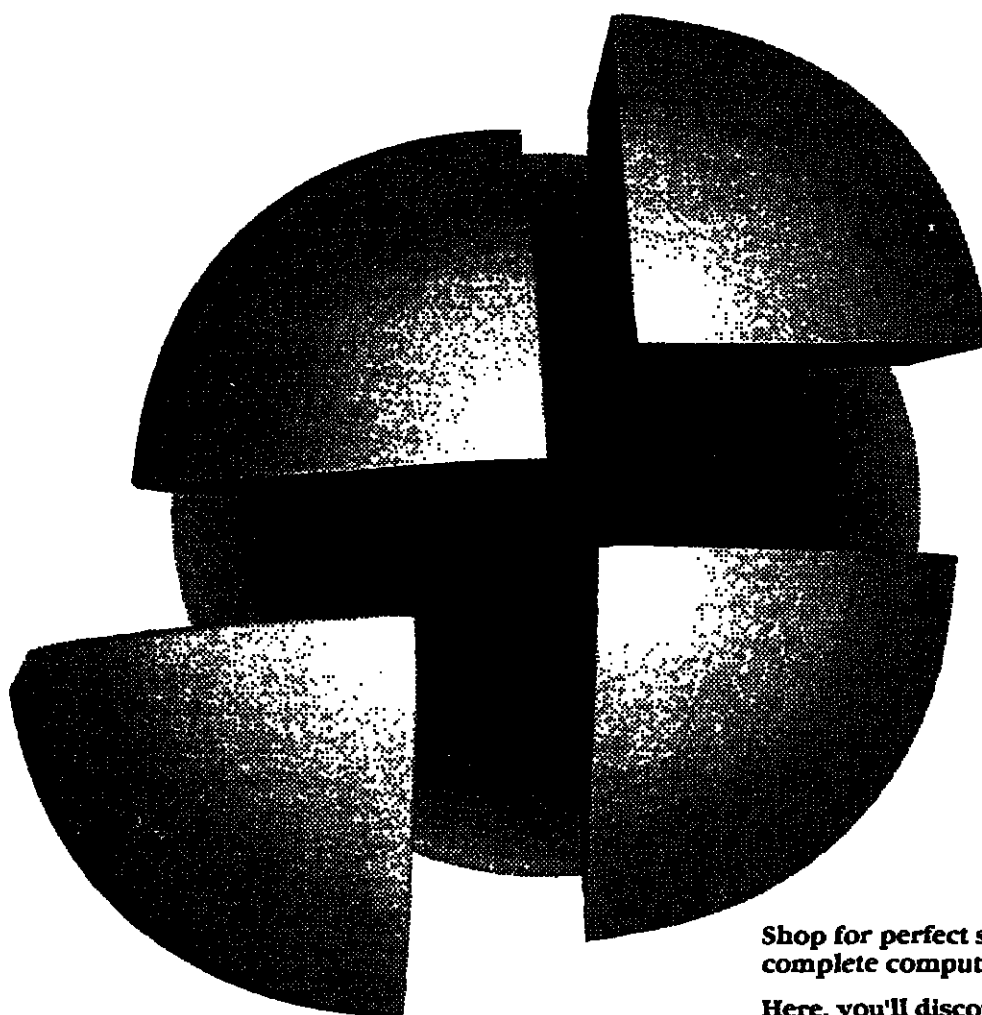
He then referred to the role of the media and said that the reason the Rotary Club felt it was necessary to hold a press conference was because "it is important for the press to come in contact with ordinary people, such as those who are members of the Rotary Club," Abu Jaber said.

The Rotary Club, which has three main branches in Jordan, the Amman, Philadelphia, and

Petra branches, has also been involved through some of its members in charity campaigns to raise food and milk to the Iraqi children. "There are about five million children without milk or medication in Iraq. We have organised a campaign along with voluntary societies in Jordan to raise food and money to send to Iraq, and the Jordanian response was tremendous. In 10 days, we were able to raise JD 200,000 in cash to send to Iraq," Ali Kurayem, a member of the Rotary Club, said. He also added that 30 countries in the world had contacted Jordanian charity societies extending help to Iraq. "Next Monday 15 refrigerated trucks will be sent to Iraq filled with food, milk and medicine," Kurayem said.

During the press conference, the Western and American media came under attack by some rotarians who said "sensationalism" was creeping into media stories and reports. "We want everyone to know what is happening the way it is happening not the way it is 'reported' to be happening," one said.

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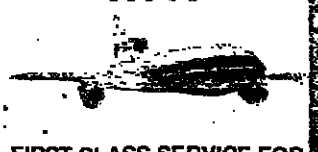
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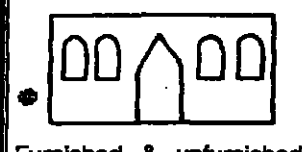
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Becker gets tough draw in U.S. Open tennis tournament

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Boris Becker faces an ambush at every turn as a result of the draw held for next week's U.S. Open tennis tournament.

The second-seeded West German meets a deadly opponent in the very first round when he opposes Juan Aguilera of Spain who beat him earlier this year in Hamburg.

A potential second-round foe is former French Open champion Yannick Noah of France with whom Becker has a career record of 2-2, while in the third round he could encounter Paul Haarhuis, the Dutchman who ousted fourth-seeded John McEnroe last year.

Possible fourth-round tests for Becker could come from countryman Carl-Uwe Steeb or 15th-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, a rising star from Yugoslavia. Becker has had trouble with both, splitting the two matches he has played this year against each.

Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the Wimbledon champion who has seized the number one ranking in recent weeks, meets Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union in the opening round, but the spotlight in his section of the draw played on two U.S. former champions, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

Connors, appearing in his 21st consecutive open, opens against another U.S. veteran, Kevin Curren, in his attempt to increase his record of 92 matches won in the tournament. McEnroe, a four-time champion whose form has slumped this year, has a tricky first round against Javier Sanchez of Spain.

Ivan Lendl, the top seed for the previous four years, has an easier time in trying to reclaim the world's number one ranking that he lost a couple of weeks ago in falling to third.

The big U.S.-based Czechoslovak, who tied Bill Tilden's record last year by reaching his

eight consecutive final, opens against a qualifier and seems to have little real competition until the quarter-finals when he is seeded to meet Austrian Thomas Muster.

Fourth-seeded Andre Agassi of the United States and number five Andres Gomez of Ecuador also appear to have a clear path to a confrontation in the quarter-finals in what would be a replay of the French Open final won by Gomez.

Swede Mats Wilander, who has plummeted in the rankings since holding the number one spot at the end of 1988, will have to resurrect his old form in a hurry to survive a first-round clash with eighth-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States.

The top-seeded women all avoided the most dangerous unranked opponents in the opening round, with number one seed Steffi Graf of West Germany beginning the defence of her title

against a qualifier yet to be determined. Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova of the United States, seeded second, takes on Federica Piazzini of Argentina while third-seeded teenager Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, the French Open champion, was drawn against Bulgarian Elena Pampoulova.

Number four seed Zina Garrison of the United States was also handed a lowly-ranked opponent in Beata Reinstadler of Austria, and fifth-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini meets U.S. veteran Kathy Jordan.

Graf's opponent in the round of 16 could be 14-year-old U.S. sensation Jennifer Capriati, the 13th seed who takes on West German Anke Huber.

The most intriguing match of the opening round will test family loyalties when seventh-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria will take the court against her young sister, Magdalena.

Connors satisfied with himself

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Connors satisfied himself Thursday, which is all he wanted to do.

He tested his left wrist but not his game as he defeated mistake-prone Robert Seguso 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 to move into the quarterfinals of the WCT Tournament of Champions.

"If I can't come out here and have fun grinding it out and yelling and screaming and griping and moaning and talking to the people in the stands and hitting balls for winners and missing shots and doing what I've done for the last 22 years, then I'd do something else," Connors said.

In another match during Thursday's rain-shortened second round, Frenchman Henri Leconte defeated Spain's Javier Sanchez 6-2, 6-2. Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union led South Africa's Christo Van Rensburg 6-2, 2-1 when rain halted play for the night. Also washed out was Aaron Krickstein's match with

Czechoslovakia's Peter Korda. The tournament lost Jay Berger with a badly blistered foot. That put Todd Martin, a Northwestern University student, into the quarterfinals against Leconte.

Connors, who will turn 38 a week from Sunday, said he would decide Sunday whether to seek his fifth U.S. Open title. He is scheduled to meet hard-serving Kevin Curren in the first round.

"If I go in there and don't play up to standard, that would upset me more than not playing at all and not being able to give the people the kind of game and excitement I've given them in the past," he said. "I do enjoy it, and it keeps me in shape."

"I don't think it's my desire to win as much as it's my desire to go out and try to reach a level that I expect out of myself."

Because of the layoff to rest his wrist, Connors had no snap to his forehand and serve, instead pushing the ball with no spin.

But, overflowing with mistakes, Seguso could not take advantage, except in the second set when his serve-and-volley game was clicking.

Connors, however, produced the same marvelous backhand that has carried him to 109 tournament titles. And his return of serve, for years the best in the game, was more than enough to keep Seguso from mounting any semblance of a counter-attack.

Seguso said he was impressed with Connors, who played his first match since he was injured in Milan, Italy in February.

"If you love it that much and you're that good of a player, you're going to continue to play great tennis. I think usually when you love your game, it's when you lose interest," Seguso said.

The victory sends Connors against defending champion Ivan Lendl, the top seed in this exhibition tournament at the West Side Tennis Club.

Europeans face East German all-round excellence at Split

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (R) — British speed, Italian endurance and Soviet strength vie with East German all-round excellence at next week's European Athletics Championships.

Lindford Christie heads a squad of Britons who hope to win all the men's sprint medals while Italians Salvatore Antibo and Gelindo Bordin could share the 5,000, 10,000 and marathon gold medals.

The Soviet team, traditionally strong in the throwing events, can afford to leave Yuri Sedykh, the world's greatest hammer thrower, at home and the East Germans are confident of another handsome medal haul in their last competition as a separate nation.

"We expect to do much the same as in earlier championships, in other words win eight to 10 gold medals," East German chief trainer Bernd Schubert said.

The six-day competition, beginning Monday, takes place against a backdrop of ethnic unrest in Knin, 40 kilometres north

of this ancient sea port, where tension between Serbs and Croats has risen sharply.

For the last time, East Germany competes as a separate nation before the unification of the East and West German Athletics Federation on Jan. 1 next year.

The two German teams will share living quarters at a competition which reflects the changed face of European sport.

Success for East Europeans now means the chance of big pay days on the European circuit, a goal which has driven Romania's Doina Melinte through a punishing race schedule this year.

Melinte, 33, will run the 1,500 metres here but her compatriot and Olympic champion, Paula Ivan, has taken the year off.

The British are full of confidence and chief coach Frank Dick believes they can win 22 medals.

"We have kept the momentum after winning the European Cup last season and head the ranking in nearly half the men's events," Dick said.

"I am confident that the championships can be the start of another successful decade for us — probably more exciting than the 1980s."

John Regis, the world indoor 200 champion, says he would be "amazed and disappointed," if the British did not make a clean sweep of the men's 100, 200 and 4x100 relay.

Christie, the Olympic silver medalist, is the fastest man over 100 metres in Europe this year, Regis the quickest over 200 and, for good measure, defending champion Roger Black is the only European to have broken 45 seconds for the 400.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Finn leads after first day of 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Finland's Juha Kankkunen in a Lancia Delta led the 1,000 Lakes Rally by just two seconds from World Drivers' Championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain.

At the end of the first of the 1,604-kilometre rally's four days, and with six of the 42 time special stages completed, Kankkunen's time was 32 minutes 26 seconds.

In conditions made difficult by heavy rain, Sainz spun his Toyota Celica on the first stage and finished the fourth with a flat tyre.

He started the race with a heavily-strapped ankle after rolling in his training car in practice Wednesday evening.

Kankkunen led after the first special stage but lost the lead on the second to last year's winner,

Mikael Ericsson of Sweden in a Toyota, who ended the day in third place 11 seconds behind Kankkunen.

Finland's veteran driver Pentti Airikkala made an early exit after stopping on the fourth stage with gearbox trouble. His Ford Sierra Cosworth lost all drive and Airikkala was forced to retire.

France's Didier Auriol, currently second in the Drivers' Championship with 67 points against Sainz's 95, ended the day in 10th place.

His Lancia was damaged in a crash on the first stage and had a door panel removed.

The rally resumes Friday with the drivers heading east to Piekasala before returning to Jyväskylä after having covered a further 12 special stages and 337 kilometres.

Sheffield United hopes for heroics against Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Champion Liverpool, tipped for the top once again, kicks off the new season Saturday at newly-promoted Sheffield United — whose manager knows all about underdogs and upsetting the mighty men from Anfield.

Dave Bassett made his name by taking unfashionable Wimbledon from the fourth division to the first in just five seasons. The first time Wimbledon played Liverpool in the league at Anfield, they shocked the nation by humbling their hosts 2-1.

Now Bassett believes United, an impoverished club he has led from the third to the first division in successive seasons, can rise to the challenge and perform the same sort of heroics.

"Liverpool are as near perfection as possible. But no team has a divine right to stay at the top," said Bassett.

"They can be beaten... if we are on song and they are not we could come out on Saturday night as heroes."

Aston Villa, runner-up to Liverpool last season, has a harder test at home to Southampton Saturday while Tottenham Hotspur, with England World Cup stars Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker, faces Manchester City.

The match looks sure to be a sell-out as fans rush to catch a

glimpse of "gazza" Gascoigne in action at home.

But Lineker, who played at Everton under present City Manager Howard Kendall, has no illusions about a team that lost only one of their 11 league games after Kendall took over last season.

"I have got a lot of respect for Howard. He is certainly one of the best managers I have ever worked for. He will have them highly motivated and highly organised," Lineker said.

Villa, playing its first League match under Czechoslovak World Cup manager Jozef Venglos, is likely to field Ian Olney alongside Ireland's World Cup striker Tony Cascarino.

Southampton's Soviet international Sergei Gotsmanov is in the squad but may have to wait for his debut match. But his compatriot Alex Cheridink is a likely starter at right back.

Manchester United, at home to Coventry, will be without captain Bryan Robson and striker Danny Wallace, who has a calf strain, but England midfielder Neil Webb, also suffering from a calf strain, trained Thursday and could be fit.

Chelsea, at home to Derby, gives its new summer signings Andy Townsend and Dennis Wise their league debuts.

Romanian players put cash ahead of country

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's leading soccer players, relishing the freedom to earn large sums abroad, appear to be putting cash ahead of their country.

Soccer sources said the national team management were having trouble contacting players abroad and there were signs that players were reluctant to play for their country.

The latest player to be snapped up by a Western club is Steaua Bucharest's striker Gavriel

Balint, who signed for Spain's Burgos Thursday.

Romania meets the Soviet Union in a friendly international next Wednesday before facing Scotland in a European Championship Group 2 qualifier on Sept. 12.

"This is a new situation for us with so many internationals playing abroad," Romanian Soccer Federation official Cristian Bivolaru told Reuters this week.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righer Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Beneath the on the surface agitation and confusion today as Mercury goes retrograde, you will also have a real chance to show some steady advancement through a willingness to accept other formulas.

you can be helped to a powerful friend and do what advances that persons interests and much support then comes to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Outside interests can be the best outlet for your talents and energies so don't run off on some tangent but carry through a public interest.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put practical matters in back of you now while you pay more heed to varied information can become good for your character and your advancement.

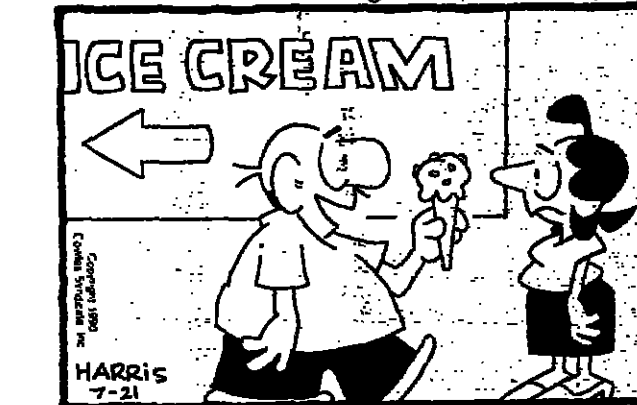
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't make so much over your own views and way of doing things that you lose out on some valuable course now suggested by business expert.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get out and do what you have agreed instead of sitting in some private place and stewing over a situation you do not like about an associate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Both mate and attachment can be a drawback if you allow in getting outside activities attended to do so them before indulging personal relationships.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you listen to family member or an influential outsider you will put aside developing a talent that is very good for you and lose out considerably.

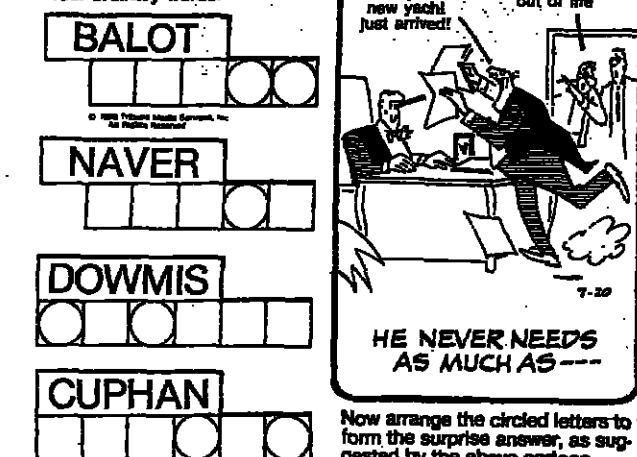
THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"It's the ultimate junk food — pizza-flavored ice cream with bits of potato chips!"

JUMBLE, THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: RHYME EXULT FRACAS HEARTH

Answer: The opinionated guy didn't want to be confused by this — THE FACTS

THE Daily Crossword by James Berick



Poland wants compensation for joining Iraqi oil boycott

WARSAW (R) — Poland is seeking compensation from the West for the losses it will suffer by taking part in a U.N. boycott of Iraqi oil, the official PAP news agency has said.

PAP said Poland stood to lose about \$130 million this year following the cut-off of crude oil Iraq was supplying in repayment of its debt to Warsaw.

The United Nations embargo also threw next year's oil supplies into jeopardy, threatening losses of up to \$340 million, the agency said.

It quoted foreign ministry sources as saying Poland was seeking compensation "both in bilateral plane, and on the multilateral plane, particularly with regard to the European Community (EC) Commission which coordinates Western economic aid for Poland."

Poland said after Iraq's takeover

of Kuwait that it would take part in an international trade embargo but that its own economy would suffer as a result.

Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available to comment on PAP's report, which did not make clear whether Poland would seek compensation for other trade losses apart from oil.

The report said the ministry had also asked the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to examine the possibility of assistance from the International Energy Agency.

Officials have estimated Poland's trade losses this year, including oil, at \$250 million. Warsaw has also cut off arms sales worth a reported \$115 million.

"As a result of the sanctions, Poland will not be able to get 750,000 tonnes of crude oil of the million that it ordered this year as

repayment of Iraq's debt to Poland," PAP said.

"This crude oil will have to be bought on the free market for cash, at a cost of about \$130 million," it added.

"Poland also cannot count on deliveries of another one to two million tonnes of oil which it was supposed to have received as repayment of Iraq's debt next year. This will entail a need to reach for hard currency reserves, decreasing them by \$170 to \$340 million (in current prices)," the agency explained.

PAP said the energy crisis would be aggravated next year by the need to pay for Soviet crude and fuels in hard currency for the first time.

It said all these factors taken together would mean \$800 million to \$1 billion of additional unforeseen expenditure next year.

Israel increases oil purchases from Mexico

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has increased its long-term oil contracts with Mexico by 50 per cent to secure a steady supply amid a worldwide price crisis provoked by the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, energy ministry sources have said.

They said Israel two weeks ago signed a contract to buy 1.5 million tonnes of oil a year instead of the one million tonnes it bought before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Sources at the ministry said it is common to seek stable oil supplies through long-term contracts in times of crisis in world markets instead of on the spot market.

Israel two weeks ago increased government-regulated oil prices by about 15 per cent due to the worldwide price rise.

Israel imports all its oil, about 8.5 million tonnes annually. In addition to Mexico, it buys two to three million tonnes from Egypt, 750,000 tonnes from Norway and the rest from the spot market.

The sources said Israel filled its reservoirs a month before Iraq's invasion taking advantage of the low prices at the time.

Gulf crisis blocks accord on Iraqi debt

PARIS (R) — The Gulf crisis has blocked the signing of an accord to reschedule Iraq's debt to France, official sources have said.

The sources said the two countries reached an agreement in July for rescheduling part of Iraq's debt of 24 billion francs (\$4.6 billion).

The accord was about to be signed when Iraq invaded Kuwait, plunging the Gulf region into tension and prompting an international boycott of Baghdad.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi told Reuters his country agreed to pay 1.5 billion francs (\$286 million) on its 1990 debt obligation of five billion francs (\$953 million), with the rest to be rescheduled.

France's debt exposure in Iraq is the largest in Europe because of its position as Baghdad's leading Western arms supplier during Iraq's eight-year Gulf war with Iran.

The French government credit guarantee agency Cofas had been refusing to cover any further credits to Iraq, which has had difficulty meeting its debt obligations since the end of the war in August 1988.

Hashimi said the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq and the threat of war following its take-over of Kuwait had virtually crippled its ability to service debt.

"In the first half of 1990 Iraq paid \$6 billion in debts and interests," Hashimi said.

The figure represented the global payment to all creditors, he added. He could not give a breakdown.

"We are paying that much because we don't want to fall into the trap of debt accumulation," he added.

Lebanese strike for higher wages

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Bank and municipal employees in Lebanon started an open-ended strike Thursday demanding better wages as labour unions called a demonstration to protest skyrocketing prices.

The strike by employees at 118 private banks and the central bank quickly resulted in a shortage of cash throughout the nation.

The U.S. dollar traded at 1,000 to the lira in the Beirut money market, although the central bank did not issue its daily foreign exchange quote because of the strike.

"There is a rush on foreign currencies. This has led to the sharp rise in the dollar's value by 150 liras in a few hours today," said Mohammad Shocib, a money exchanger.

He said there is a shortage of dollars and banks are closed. "I don't know how we are going to cope with this problem if the strike lasts for more than 48 hours," he said.

The strike by the municipal employees was expected to pose health problems in Beirut and other cities.

Ihsan Salam, former head of Beirut's Municipal Sanitation Department, said that in the intense summer heat uncollected garbage could quickly become the source of disease.

OPEC may informally discuss oil strategy during coming week

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers plan informal talks in Vienna Sunday on whether to raise oil output to make up for shortages caused by a United Nations embargo on exports from Iraq and Kuwait.

Chances of an agreement are not high, according to several officials of member states, and it was not clear immediately if the biggest exporter, Saudi Arabia, would attend.

Iraq, backed by others including Iran, opposed plans by the Saudis and Venezuela for a rise in output above current quotas assigned by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Saudis and Venezuelans have indicated they may go ahead and turn up the taps to compensate for some of four million barrels lost daily because of the embargo, with or without a formal OPEC accord.

They say they would prefer to act in concert with OPEC and have pressed the group's Algerian president, Sadek Boussena, to convene an emergency conference which could, in theory, award them new and higher output quotas.

Boussena says there is no majority in favour of that but he will be "available" at OPEC headquarters in Vienna from Sunday to consult any minister who cares to arrive.

OPEC's secretariat is avoiding using the term "meeting" to describe the proposed get-together. By staying informal it may hope to get round the problem of

seating Iraq, if it wants to attend, and the Kuwaiti government-in-exile.

It would only say publicly that "consultations will take place before the end of the month."

Delegation sources said the Saudis would prefer a more formal agenda. An announcement from Jeddah was awaited on whether they would join the planned talks.

OPEC sources said Iran, Indonesia, Nigeria and Gabon were saying they would attend and Venezuela may do so.

"We will be defying the laws of probability if we can meet at all," an official of one member state said.

"It is not that OPEC is split. One founder member has annexed another and seems on the brink of war with a third," he said.

Still, the Saudis and Venezuelans say OPEC, founded 30 years ago next month in Baghdad, must act to stop the Gulf crisis causing a new oil "shock" and a global slump.

Delegation sources say the Saudis are privately indicating that others in OPEC are quietly selling more oil anyway and cashing in on prices which have now hit \$30 per barrel, or about double what they were in a recent glut.

The Saudi-Venezuelan camp includes the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Ecuador and Kuwait's government-in-exile.

Iraq, fighting the stranglehold of economic sanctions, unexpectedly has said any move to

raise output would be an unfriendly act, OPEC delegation sources report.

Iran's news agency last week quoted political analysts as saying the Saudis wanted to raise output against the wishes of an OPEC majority in order to finance the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf and serve the interests of Western consumers.

Indonesian Oil Minister Guntur Kartasasmita told reporters in Jakarta that, at some stage, OPEC should act but "industrial countries must also contribute to stabilise the world oil market by releasing their stocks to developing countries who need them."

The West's 21-member energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA) meets in Paris Aug. 31 and might yield an accord under which Western governments may authorise use of some oil from state-held resources like the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve.

Nations will be reluctant to use stocks until they know whether or not there will be a war in the Gulf.

Late Thursday, the Saudis were said by OPEC delegation sources to be still holding out for a more formal meeting than Boussena apparently envisaged and to be "unlikely" to attend the consultations as now planned.

But there had been no public Saudi statement.

A senior Venezuelan source close to OPEC said that, at present, Venezuela planned to attend.

Venezuela raises oil output

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela will immediately begin increasing its crude oil production due to the crisis in the Gulf, but the extra output will be put into storage and not sold on the market for now, according to the Energy Minister Celestino Armas.

"We have given instructions to the oil industry immediately to begin a programme to increase our inventories," Armas told the congressional steering committee Thursday. But he said the additional stocks "will not go unilaterally to the international markets."

Armas told the committee that by drawing on its inventories and increasing production, Venezuela

in the short term could provide 350,000 additional barrels of crude daily, above its 1.945 million barrels per day OPEC quota. By the end of the year, it could provide another 150,000 barrels daily.

With Iraqi crude oil embargoed, Venezuela is the third-largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), after Saudi Arabia and Iran.

But he said the increased production would not reach the market unless OPEC reached an agreement "either completely collectively or collectively with those nations that are in the position and disposed to increase

ing their production."

Any decisions made by OPEC now would be temporary, to deal with the oil supply gap. Armas said.

He said the government decided to increase inventories to insure secure oil supplies in case the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion and annexation of neighbouring Kuwait is prolonged.

"We think we have a very serious geopolitical commitment in the hemisphere... that obliges us to take the sufficient steps in case the situation of world oil supply becomes even more critical," he said.

Minister wants Manila to drop begging bowl

CEBU, Philippines (R) — Philippine Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao has called for a major restructuring of the country's economy to help it compete effectively on international markets.

Estanislao said the Philippines must stop holding out the begging bowl to international creditors and start earning its living through a dramatic growth in exports.

"Instead of begging from other countries, what we need to do is be respectable and become a business partner of other countries," he declared.

Estanislao said a government programme of tax reforms and tariff changes was designed to put the economy on a new footing and remove protection for "infant industries that refuse to grow up."

He said tariff changes that will go into effect on Sept. 1 had been opposed by many businessmen whose industries had been protected for the past 30 years.

"Few, if any, are willing to take the bitter medicine in order to cure our endemic disease," Estanislao declared.

He repeated his opposition to a moratorium, proposed by congress, on payments of the country's \$26 billion debt.

The influential Roman Catholic

archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, Friday backed calls to limit Philippine foreign debt payments, saying it was morally wrong to put debt servicing before basic human needs.

Estanislao said for the past two decades the Philippines had survived on loans and assistance from abroad, foreign investment and the large remittances sent home by Filipino workers overseas.

But he said the Philippines must now export or face disaster. The Philippine trade deficit in the first six months of 1990 grew by 62 per cent over the same period last year to \$1.87 billion.

Imports rocketed by 17.5 per cent compared with a dismal 3.7 per cent growth in exports.

A major earthquake last month and the economic impact of the Gulf crisis are expected by the government to fuel inflation, curb economic growth and push the balance of trade further into the red. Persistent rumours of a possible fresh coup attempt are deterring foreign investment.

"It is about time that we introduce a sense of urgency to all we do, because time is limited. We do not have the luxury of resources, nor of international sympathy. The Philippines is no longer the darling of the world, because 1986 is too far gone..."

Estanislao said

Poll finds Americans gloomy over economy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Nearly six out of 10 Americans believe the United States is in a recession, reflecting a negative mood about the economy that has been developing for months, according to a poll published Friday.

The New York Times/CBS news poll, conducted in telephone interviews with 1,422 Americans between Aug. 16-19, found that about 55 per cent of the public says the U.S. economy is growing worse. The margin of error was three percentage points.

The Times, which published the survey results in its Friday edition, reported that while various other polls have shown the sour mood had been developing for months, it has increased significantly since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Iraq's invasion brought a tide of bad economic news, including rising oil prices, climbing interest rates and plunging stock prices.

The last time the Times/CBS poll found so many Americans with a negative perception of their economy was in 1981 and 1982, as the country plunged into its worst recession since World War II.

The poll found that about 40 per cent of the public said the economy was staying the same and only about four per cent felt it was getting better.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government deficit jumped another \$25.9 billion in July, boosting this year's shortfall \$2.9 per cent above the same period last year.

The eighth monthly deficit in the first 10 months of fiscal 1990 was \$189.1 billion, as compared to \$123.7 billion at the end of July 1989.

The deficit totalled \$152.1 billion at the end of the last fiscal year and the White House Office of Management and Budget is forecasting a \$218.5 billion imbalance when the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Thursday, August 23, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
Sell	Buy		
659.0	655.00	U.S. dollar	451.0
1274.6	1267.00	Pound Sterling	375.5
423.1	420.00	Deutschmark	114.4
517.1	514.00	Swiss franc	56.8
125.8	125.00	French franc	206.3
		Japanese yen (for 100)	448.3
		Dutch guilder	373.3
		Swedish crown	113.75
		Italian lire (for 100)	36.5
		Belgian franc (for 100)	205.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
U.S. dollar	1.9440/50	One Sterling	
Canadian dollar	1.1300/10	One U.S. dollar	
Deutschmarks	1.5545/50		
Dutch guilders	1.7505/15		
Swiss francs	1.2710/20		
Belgian francs	31.89/94		
French francs	5.2170/2220		
Italian lire	1153/1154		
Japanese yen	145.65/75		
Swedish crowns	5.7290/7340		
Norwegian crowns	6.0180/0230		
Danish crowns	5.9550/9600		
U.S. dollars	412.20/70	One ounce of gold	

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Gorbachev rejects Russian bid to wrest control of resources

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has nullified an attempt by the Russian Republic to wrest control over its vast natural resources from the central Soviet government.

Gorbachev also said he would meet soon with the president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, in an effort to coordinate plans to shift the Soviet Union to a market economy.

At the same time Gorbachev issued his presidential decree, Russia, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics, backed down from its order earlier this month that declared invalid contracts signed by the Soviet government.

Its action averted — or postponed — a critical battle between the national Soviet government and the resource-rich republic over both the acquisition of badly needed foreign currency and the division of power.

Russia's Aug. 10 declaration had thrown into question scores of lucrative contracts, including the \$5 billion diamond deal with the De Beers firm, the leading dealer in diamond exports.

Russia had maintained that it voided all contracts, signed without its approval, to sell the republic's diamonds, metals, oil, gas, uranium and even any manufactured product it considers.

But on Thursday, Russia's deputy prime minister, Gennadiy Filin, said the republic had now decided to honour all agreements, even those forged without its consent,

the independent news agency Interfax reported.

He specifically mentioned the diamond contract, which was considered lucrative for both the republic and the Soviet Union, Interfax said.

Gorbachev said Russia's earlier declaration could "cause serious damage to the country's interests, by complicating possibilities to buy goods and win credits, which are needed so badly amid current economic difficulties."

"It is effectively directed at undermining the economic sovereignty of other union republics since it usurps the right to manage products belonging to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," he said.

Gorbachev declared the Russian action "null and void," according to remarks carried on the Soviet TV programme Vremya and by the Soviet News Agency TASS.

In a second presidential decree, Gorbachev granted the National Academy of Sciences broad autonomy, ending decades of tight state control.

Gorbachev, in a television interview, said he spent six hours Wednesday with the panel he and Yeltsin set up to forge a path toward a market economy in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev praised the panel and said it had made good progress, predicting there would soon be a unified programme. The panel is to present its findings to

the Soviet parliament early next month.

He said he agreed with the commission's proposal to first stabilise the country's economy, a process he said would take a few months. He said this would take an edge off the transition period and would avoid sharp price increases. He said the switch to a market system would take 18 months to two years.

On Thursday, Gorbachev met with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who leads a second panel that is exploring ways to switch to a market system.

Gorbachev said he hoped that within the next week the different approaches can be coordinated into a single plan.

"What is important today is the transition to a market economy and the revival of the USSR on new principles, that is as a union of sovereign states," he said.

Armenia declares independence

Armenia declared its independence from Moscow Thursday, assuming control over defence, foreign and economic policy and resolving to reunite the republic with the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian parliament voted overwhelmingly to establish the republic's own army — a step that goes further than most other republics which have de-

clared their intention to leave the Soviet Union.

The declaration stopped short of calling for a complete break with Moscow. But the parliament voted for independence in nearly every other way, including creating its own currency and central bank.

It also gave the southern republic a new name — the Republic of Armenia, instead of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. The republican government will have the right to form its own diplomatic and economic ties with foreign nations.

The declaration, received by Reuters in Moscow and effective immediately, also said foreign troops would be allowed inside Armenia only with the consent of the republic's parliament.

It was the first major step by Armenia towards complete secession from the Soviet Union.

The declaration described parliament's decision as "the beginning of the process of establishing complete statehood."

But it failed to mention what future moves would be taken in the break with Moscow, which follows similar acts by the Baltic Republics. Other republics, including the giant Russian Federation and the Ukraine, have adopted sovereignty decrees.

On Thursday, Turkmenia in Central Asia joined their ranks, with a unanimous statement by parliament asserting its sovereignty.

Sri Lanka approves emergency laws for 'fight to the finish'

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's parliament extended emergency laws for the fifteenth month in a row after Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne promised to "bomb Tamil rebels from all sides."

"We will get them. They will not escape," Wijeratne said during a debate on the state of emergency which has been extended month after month since it was imposed in May, 1989.

Last month, Wijeratne, whose pugnacious words make newspaper headlines daily, told parliament the extension of special powers was needed to "hammer the daylight" out of the guerrillas.

In a late-night debate on the subject Thursday, Wijeratne told parliament that a major offensive in the north was on to protect 200 soldiers and policemen in a

camp inside a 350-year-old fort in Jaffna town and clear the rebels from the area.

"The rebels have been incessantly attacking the fort with mortars and rocketfire and we have to safeguard our men inside," he said.

Parliament voted 116 to 68 in favour of extending the state of emergency.

Military sources said Friday that four soldiers died in Thursday's fighting. Rebel deaths have been put at 20 since troops began the Jaffna offensive Wednesday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas who are fighting to set up an independent homeland for the minority Tamil community, said in a statement that several people had been killed and houses and property damaged as a result of bombing.

Military sources said troops were fighting on Mandaitivu Island which is two kilometres away from the fort camp. Another nearby rebel-held island, Kayts, was seized by the security forces Wednesday.

The 200 soldiers and policemen have been trapped inside the Jaffna Base under siege since June 11 when the Tigers unleashed fresh attacks on security forces installations in the northeast.

The base, in a star-shaped fort built by the Dutch, has been pounded almost daily with mortar bombs, rocket propelled grenades and small arms by the Tigers from surrounding buildings and bunkers.

Earlier Thursday, Wijeratne told a news conference that security forces expected to seize control of the area around the base in two or three days.

to a request by Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa.

As local police watched Wednesday, Mohawks and whites battled after a crowd halted three cars with Mohawk passengers at Ste-Catherine. Soldiers intervened and arrested five Indians.

About 50 whites carrying crowbars and baseball bats patrolled another road from the reserve. Tires were slashed on two Mohawk vehicles and a van was overturned before the Indians fled.

A Montreal demonstrator said, "the police have to let them through with their food. We don't."

The dispute arose from Oka's plans to expand a golf course onto land said to be ancestral. One officer was killed in a gun battle on July 11 when Quebec police tried to remove a Mohawk barrier. Blame in the death was not been fixed.

Mohawks say Canadian army too close, cancel Quebec talks

OKA, Quebec (AP) — Mohawk negotiators suspended talks with the Quebec government Thursday after armed personnel carriers moved into position near a barricade the Mohawks erected six weeks ago in their land dispute.

"It's clear to me this is an intimidation tactic," said Mohawk negotiator Joe Deom, surrounded by masked, gun-toting members of the warriors society milling about the army vehicles. "They're making it more and more difficult to stay at the table."

Maj. Richard Larouche, an army spokesman, said the soldiers advanced their position because armed warriors were spotted coming in and out of a mile-wide area separating army and Mohawk lines. The army said it would stay in its new position, about 1 metres from the Mohawk barricade.

Despite that, native spokesmen

not identified — said the Mohawks were ready to return to the bargaining table.

Larouche said the military closed the gap after sending armoured personnel carriers to accompany a busload of Mohawk negotiators.

Temper in the region, 29 kilometres west of Montreal, were high.

Residents were frustrated and furious over commuting hardships and loss of business revenue caused by the Mohawk blockade of Mercier Bridge, linking several communities on the south side of the St. Lawrence River with Montreal.

Crowds have tried to stop medical supplies and food from reaching the Mohawk community and to keep Indians from leaving.

The government guarantees access to the reserve while negotiations continue, under an agreement reached on Aug. 12. Federal troops are at Oka in response

to a request by Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa.

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Parties call for Haiti president's resignation, election postponement

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Seven political parties have called for the resignation of President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot and asked that elections be suspended until Haiti's political crisis is resolved.

In a letter signed by seven of the 12 parties that make up the Unity Assembly Coalition, the organisations said Haiti's political climate is not conducive to holding free and fair elections.

"The executive must resign," they wrote in a letter addressed to Electoral Council President Jean-Robert Sabat. "We ask you to suspend the electoral timetable until the government crisis is completely resolved."

Meanwhile, a wave of panic spread through downtown Port-Au-Prince Thursday afternoon after 10 men brandishing weapons and throwing stones piled out of a vehicle and ordered pedestrians off the streets. There were no injuries and police made several arrests, Radio Haiti-Inter

reported.

Presidential candidate Hubert de Roueray said it "was an attempt to intimidate and dissuade the population from participating in upcoming elections."

The Unity Assembly appointed Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot, a supreme court judge, as a transitional president after the fall in March of military ruler Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril.

She is to govern alongside a 19-member Council of State until elections, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 4, are held. But political violence, a rise in crime and the return of figures associated with the brutal Duvalier regime that ruled Haiti for 29 years has put in doubt whether credible elections can be held.

The political turmoil and Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot's inability to deal with the crisis led the Council of State, a quasi legislative body that is to rule alongside the president, to break relations with her last week.

The council charged last week she was an "obstacle" to elections.

Fears centre on the country's army, which was blamed for murdering 34 voters at the polls during the aborted November 1987 elections.

"Our problems begin and end with the army. It has not yet decided to promote the democratic process," said presidential candidate Louis Dejoie Jr.

Armed forces chief Lt. Gen. Herard Abraham has stated he supports democratic elections.

The parties calling for the resignation range from the far-left to the far right.

"If the government fails, the army will take over," said Dejean Belizaire, whose centre-right National Patriotic Movement Party was one of five parties in the coalition that did not sign the letter.

The election campaign is to begin on Sept. 19.

Workers find uranium leak at U.S. plant

GORE, Oklahoma (AP) — Workers excavating storage tanks at a uranium processing plant found levels of radioactive uranium in underground water as much as 35,000 times higher than U.S. safety standards allow, officials have said.

There was no danger to the public because the contamination was contained inside the plant's restricted area, Sequoyah Fuels Corp. Vice President Ron Addison said.

None of the company's 243 workers were exposed to radiation, he said, and no evacuations were ordered.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is investigating the discovery.

Addison said workers discovered the contaminated water Wednesday, while the plant was in its annual shutdown for maintenance. Some of the water samples ranged from 1 to 8 grams of uranium per liter.

Guidelines set by the NRC allow no more than 225 micrograms of uranium per liter. A gramme contains 1 million micrograms.

Addison said he didn't know when the company could reopen the factory, which includes a uranium conversion plant and a uranium hexafluoride reduction plant.

Plant officials believe the uranium leaked years ago from the solvent extraction building.

U.S. moves to reinstate federal death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Charles V. Harrelson may owe his life to the United States Supreme Court. Harrelson was convicted of murder in the hired killing of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr. in 1979, but never had to face the death penalty.

Seven years before he shot Wood, the Supreme Court overturned death penalty statutes throughout the United States because they didn't safeguard defendants.

While three dozen states have passed new laws enabling them to resume executions, there still is no death penalty for most civilian federal crimes.

"If the death penalty had been there, I would have sought it," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Ray Jahn, who prosecuted Harrelson in San Antonio, Texas. "Clearly he would have been entitled to death penalty treatment had there been a federal death penalty."

This year, the full Senate and the House Judiciary Committee have passed bills that would reinstate the death penalty for some federal crimes, something President George Bush sought last year.

The Senate version covers 34 crimes — including killing any federal employee from the president to an egg inspector, or committing murder to aid racketeering.

There are exceptions, of course. States cannot prosecute crimes that occur on federal property — an inmate who kills a guard at a federal prison, for example.

Taylor to attend Liberian peace talks in Gambia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Liberia's main rebel leader Charles Taylor has agreed to attend talks on ending the country's savage eight-month civil war, African diplomatic sources said Friday.

The sources told Reuters the talks would be held in the Gambian capital Banjul Monday and would also be attended by representatives of Liberian President Samuel Doe and a splinter rebel group led by Prince Johnson.

The talks will be chaired by Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara, current chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which sent a peacekeeping force to Liberia Thursday.

Taylor's rebel movement had vowed to fight the 3,000-strong ECOWAS force which they accuse of favouring Doe.

Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which has expressed full support for the ECOWAS attempt to stem the blood-bath in Liberia.

Taylor, a former associate of Doe, controls most of the country, but not the port area of Monrovia where the peacekeeping force which has sailed from Freetown is expected to land shortly.

The port is held by Prince Johnson's men who are observing a truce with about 500 soldiers loyal to Doe who is holed up in a fortified mansion on an Atlantic cliff.

The force has been mandated to enforce a ceasefire and create conditions for setting up an interim government to hold elections within 12 months.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and the centre of Monrovia ravaged since Taylor invaded Liberia in December from the Ivory Coast to topple Doe.

The rebels have received arms from one of ECOWAS's 16 member states, Burkina Faso. The arms were shipped through another member, the Ivory Coast.

Jawara rejected a rebel offer of a 10-day ceasefire if ECOWAS sent civilians rather than soldiers to monitor it.

He said that the peace talks would go ahead next Monday even if Taylor's rebels refused to take part.

Jawara said international aid agencies had sent him "desperate messages ... appealing to ECOWAS to send a peacekeeping force to put a stop to the senseless killings and massive destruction of property."

Meanwhile six ships carrying 3,000 West African soldiers sailed Thursday to enforce a ceasefire in Liberia.

The West African Economic Community sent the soldiers and emphasised its task force was on a peaceful mission to halt the 8-month-old civil war.

Troops from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Guinea have been assembling for weeks. Togo said it would send troops, but did not.

Taylor has said he is concerned that hundreds of the task force soldiers come from Nigeria and Guinea, whose leaders in the past have supported Doe.

S. Africa boosts police power to quell unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk said his government would strengthen police powers to quell 11 days of black factional fighting that has cost 500 lives.

"We dare not allow radicals to send this country up in flames," de Klerk said in a live television speech in programme. "Violence erupts with the click of a finger."

Speaking in Afrikaans, de Klerk said Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok would give police wide law enforcement powers in troubled townships around Johannesburg Friday and tighten control on the carrying of weapons.

Vlok planned a news conference to announce the measures to end faction fighting between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

A government source said the measures would apply in "all the hot spots" in the townships around the country's industrial capital. The source said the measures might include restrictions on media reporting.

De Klerk said: "Firstly there will be tighter control over the

handling and presence of weapons in certain situations.

Secondly, Vlok would invoke legislation enabling him to declare unrest areas where police would have wider powers as long as disturbances lasted.

"The period of such declaration will be short and the areas will be restricted to those areas where there really is unrest," he said.

Over the weekend the government would boost the number of security forces in the townships, where 500 people have been killed in 11 days of spear-and-gun battles.

A South African Defence Force spokesman said members of the Citizen Force Reserve Unit were among reinforcements that had started moving into the townships to support troops deployed earlier in the conflict.

The powers given security forces would be weaker than those provided by emergency rule, the sources said.

The white government ended four years of emergency rule in June in three out of four provinces in a concession to the ANC, aimed at creating a climate for power-sharing negotiations.

Romanian demonstrators vacate University Square

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Protesters who occupied Bucharest's University Square for the second time in three months vacated the area peacefully as police were moving in to dismantle the barricades they had erected, the Interior Ministry said Thursday.

Some 700 protesters, chanting anti-government slogans had cut off traffic in the square, the capital's central intersection, Wednesday night.

Around midnight, police moved into the square to remove the barricades erected by the protesters.

But, according to an Interior Ministry statement, the 120-130 still occupying the square agreed to remove the barricades themselves "so that (police) intervention has no longer necessary."

It has the second time the square had been blocked by anti-government demonstrators.

The first blockade lasted 53 days. Its breakup by police on June 13 led to several days of violence that left six people dead.

There have been several anti-government demonstrations in the capital since then, but those protesters have been careful not to block the square.

Wednesday evening's occupation of the square grew out of an authorised rally sponsored by the Democratic Christian Revolutionary Party.

That party also issued a statement condemning the University Square occupation.

After the authorised rally, several hundred people defied a police ban on a march through the city.

Solzhenitsyn turns down invitation to visit homeland

MOSCOW (R) — Exiled Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn has turned down an invitation from the prime minister of Russia to visit the Soviet Union as his personal guest.

TASS news agency, in a dispatch late Thursday from New York, quoted Solzhenitsyn as saying it would be unthinkable to return to his homeland as a tourist guest.

"When I return home it will be to live and die there," it quoted Solzhenitsyn as saying in a letter to Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the largest Soviet republic. "Even in the most hopeless years I believed that I would return."

Solzhenitsyn, author of epic works on the horrors of Stalinism, was stripped of his citizenship and expelled to the West in 1974 soon after publication abroad of The Gulag Archipelago. He has lived in the United States since 1976.

In his invitation to Solzhenitsyn, issued after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev restored the

author's citizenship by decree this month, Silayev referred to him as "a great son of the Russian people." He said his visit was needed "as air to our homeland."

TASS said Solzhenitsyn complained in his reply that his works, only authorised in the Soviet Union in the past two years, were being published with delays.

He also said he wanted to be understood not only in Soviet cities, where reform ideas are common currency, but also in the countryside, where conservative ideas are still entrenched.

Solzhenitsyn's wife Natalya had already denounced Gorbachev's decree as insufficient and said the author was demanding the repeal of legal acts justifying his expulsion.

Reviled by authorities for years after his expulsion as a traitor, he became a symbol of inspiration for radicals after Gorbachev came to power and began easing cultural restrictions in 1985.

Murder by a federal inmate serving a life sentence; drug kingpins in a continuing criminal enterprise even if no murders occur; drug kingpins who try to kill to obstruct justice; drug felons who unintentionally kill with aggravated recklessness and people who kill with a firearm during a violent or drug-trafficking crime.

But the House proposal would not allow capital punishment for such offenses as mail bombing, racketeering, murder by a federal inmate serving a life term, or murder of a federal official's relative.

The House panel also dropped from the list the killing of horse, meat, poultry and egg products inspectors.

Some of the estimated 10,000 federal agriculture inspectors do face danger, said Tony Imhof, USDA's assistant general counsel.

Though he recalled no recent killings, he said inspectors sometimes are assaulted. Meat production and packing operations are "a very tough business," Imhof said.

The Senate bill also would increase the maximum penalty from life imprisonment to death for six crimes when death occurs: murder for hire, hostage taking, murder in aid of racketeering, kidnapping, murder of a foreign official and genocide.

Additionally, it would create five new death penalty offenses: Murder by a federal inmate serving a life sentence; drug kingpins in a continuing criminal enterprise even if no murders occur; drug kingpins who try to kill to obstruct justice; drug felons who unintentionally kill with aggravated recklessness and people who kill with a firearm during a violent or drug-trafficking crime.

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COLUMN

Bush guzzling fuel by hard sea and air

NEW YORK (AP) — Even while urging Americans to conserve energy, the vacationing U.S. president George Bush has been guzzling fuel by land, by sea and by air. His most conspicuous fuel consumption has come at the helm of his twin-engine cigarette speedboat, Fidelity. But the boat is just one of the entrees of his vacation fuel bill. He burns thousands of gallons of fuel while jetting back and forth between Washington and his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

More fuel is burned by Marine One, the Sikorsky H-3 helicopter that takes Bush from Air Force One at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire to the helipad in his yard in Maine. Jets, helicopters and limousines are "part of the presidency," said White House spokesman Steve Hart. "I think most Americans would support his need to do that in order to do his job," he said. Soon, Bush will burn even more jet fuel when he takes to the skies in a new, Junco Air Force One with a bigger gas tank, according to spokesmen at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, where the planes are kept.

Barr sued for \$15m by ex-husband

LOS ANGELES (R) — Roseanne Barr, a leading comedienne on U.S. television, is being sued by her ex-husband for \$15 million, Hollywood lawyer Marvin Michelson said, Michelson, who represents Barr's former husband, William Pentland, described the action as a sort of paternity suit in which Pentland is seeking damages on the grounds that he gave up his own career as a writer in order to support his wife's burgeoning stardom.

"Roseanne was doing very well. He (Pentland) sort of stepped aside as we have said in the complaint, and took care of things on the home front and was very supportive of her," Michelson told reporters. The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, also asks for \$3 million from Barr's new husband, entertainer Tom Arnold, whom she married earlier this year within weeks of divorcing Pentland, her childhood sweetheart. Barr has two children by Pentland, both of whom are living with her and Arnold in their Los Angeles home.

Bulgaria chips away symbols of communism

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria, anxious to obliterate its Communist past, has begun stripping hated Communist stars, hammers, sickles and other symbols from buildings. First to go was a two-metre wide stone crest on the facade of Communist Party headquarters showing a hammer and sickle surrounded by two wheat ears. Onlookers cheered as workmen began chiselling away at the rays of the star. Bulgaria's National Assembly, the country's first freely-elected parliament in four decades, decided Tuesday to "liquidate symbols of foreign origin from buildings, flags and emblems."

Bulgaria, like other East European states, ousted its hardline Communist rulers last year. Though the reformed Communists who took over power have renamed themselves Socialists, none of the old-style Communist paraphernalia was removed. Many Sofia residents want to see the end of one particular example — a huge, illuminated star made of ruby glass which dominates the city centre from its roof of the headquarters of the former Communist Party.

Rare operation leaves man with 2 hearts

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP) — A rare operation has left a man with two functioning human hearts and a clean bill of health, the University of Wisconsin Hospital announced Tuesday. Surgeons inserted a human donor heart in William Rammer, 53, during an eight-hour operation July 21 to supplement his diseased heart, said Dr. Barry Fields, the hospital's chief heart transplant surgeon. Rammer will be able to return to his hobby and possibly even work, Fields said. Rammer, who was discharged from the Hospital to an outpatient centre and expects to return home next week, attended the news conference. "I can feel the difference in the heartbeat. It seems like I have a stronger heartbeat," Rammer told reporters.